

Guidance and Advice

UK Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS)



The SPS are a team of pharmacy professionals and support staff commissioned by NHS England to provide advice and guidance on Medicines Optimisation. Recent publications that may be of interest include:

[Treating urinary disorders during breastfeeding](#) - last updated 2nd July 2026

[Using lipid-lowering medicines while breastfeeding](#) - last updated 6th July 2026

[Switching doxazosin XL tablets to doxazosin standard tablets](#) - last updated 7th July 2026

[Heatwaves and medicines: assessing and managing patient risk](#) - published 8th July 2026

[Medicines in dentistry: resources to support clinical decisions](#) - published 10th July 2026

[Mental health medicines: resources to support clinical decisions](#) - last updated 23rd July 2026

[Managing the risks of using liquid oral phenobarbital](#) - last updated 24th July 2026

[Reviewing medicines use in renal impairment](#) - last updated 29th July 2026

SPS website

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)



Evidence-based recommendations for the NHS and wider health and social care sector, developed by independent committees, including professionals and lay members, and consulted on by stakeholders.

[Heavy menstrual bleeding: assessment and management \[NG88\]](#) - last updated 7th July 2026

[Low back pain and sciatica in over 16s: assessment and management \[NG59\]](#) - last updated 29th July 2026

[Osteoporosis: risk assessment \[NG259\]](#) - published 29th July 2026

[Acne vulgaris: management - updated guidance \[NG198\]](#) - last updated 3rd August 2026

NICE Guidance

Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN)



An NHS Scotland body formed in 1993, SIGN produce evidence-based, collaboratively developed clinical guidelines. SIGN have updated the following guideline:

[Epilepsies in children and young people: investigative procedures and management \[SIGN159\]](#) – updated June 2026

This updated guideline, provides evidence-based recommendations on the investigation and management of epilepsies in children and young people aged from one month to 19 years (remaining in secondary education); this update focuses on pharmacological management.

SIGN website

HSE Antibiotic Prescribing

Antibiotic prescribing guidelines for clinicians



HSE AMRIC have recently published the following antimicrobial stewardship resources and guideline revisions in the community guidelines section of www.antibioticprescribing.ie.

Please be aware you may need to refresh this page and/or clear your cache to ensure you are viewing the most up to date version of this guideline.

Antimicrobial stewardship resources (new):

[UTI patient information leaflet for women 18-64 years V1.0](#)

[Skip the Dip for UTI in over 65s toolbox talk V1.0](#)

Antimicrobial stewardship resources (revisions):

[Skip the Dip for UTI in over 65s page](#)

[Skip the Dip for UTI in over 65s staff handbook V2.0](#)

[UTI patient information leaflet for adults aged 65 years and over V2.0](#)

Guidelines (revisions):

[Conjunctivitis \(infective\) V3.0](#)

[Suspected bacterial meningitis or meningococcal disease V2.0](#)

[Prescribing for children guidance V3.0](#)

[Acute cough in children V2.0](#)

[Community acquired pneumonia in children V2.0](#)

[UTI in children V2.0](#)

[Otitis media in children V2.0](#)

Paediatric antibiotic dosing tables V3.0:

[Amoxicillin](#)

[Cefalexin](#)

[Clarithromycin](#)

[Co-amoxiclav](#)

[Doxycycline](#)

[Flucloxacillin](#)

[Metronidazole](#)

[Nitrofurantoin](#)

Read more

Medication Safety

Medication Safety Minute



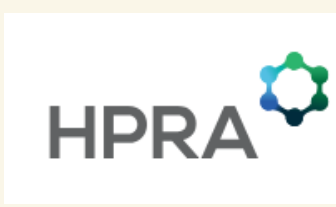
Readers are reminded of the "Medication Safety Minute", a collaborative project undertaken by two hospital consultants and the Medication Safety Facilitator (a pharmacist) in St James's Hospital.

These bite-sized messages, which may also include short videos, are published every week and are available via X @[medsafetymin](#). Recent Medication Safety Minutes are linked directly below and include:

- [Vancomycin – prescribing the loading dose](#)
- [Post-Operative Analgesia Prescribing in Standard Patients](#)
- [Stealth medication](#)

Learn more

Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA)



The Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) [website](#) contains the latest regulatory updates on medicines and information on [medicine shortages](#), as well as access to all currently approved product information (e.g., [Summary of Product Characteristics](#) [SmPCs]).

Drug Safety Newsletter 123rd edition - published 13th July 2026

The 123rd edition of the HPRA Drug Safety Newsletter includes important updates to support the safe and appropriate use of the following medicines:

- Methylphenidate: New warning regarding increased intraocular pressure and glaucoma
- Topical minoxidil: New warning of hypertrichosis associated with inadvertent exposure in children
- Mysimba (naltrexone hydrochloride / bupropion hydrochloride): Interaction with opioids
- Product information updates recommended by the EMA's Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC)



Drug Safety Newsletter

Direct Healthcare Professional Communication (DHPC)

The HPRA has recently published the following important safety information update:

[Tavneos – EMA recommends revocation of marketing authorisation in the EU due to unfavourable benefit-risk balance](#) - published 16th July 2026

HPRA Safety Notices

Irish Medication Safety Network (IMSN)



Established in 2007, the IMSN is a voluntary, independent group of hospital pharmacists with the principal aim of improving patient safety with regard to the use of medicines.

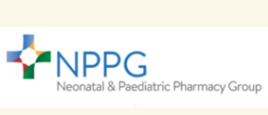
The IMSN have recently published the following bulletin announcing an IMSN Knowledge Exchange event in the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital Education Centre in Dublin on Tues 8th Sept 2026.

[IMSN Medication Safety Bulletin Edition 8](#) – published June 2026

IMSN webpage

Other News

Neonatal & Paediatric Pharmacy Group (NPPG)



The UK NPPG has recently published the following position statements:

[Selection of Administration Devices for Oral Liquid Medicines Dispensed to Children V1.0](#) – published July 2026

[Chlorhexidine for Skin Cleansing in Neonates V2.0](#) – updated July 2026

Signposting

Recently published articles that may be of interest can be found below:

- Childs DS, et al. [Advances in systemic therapies for advanced prostate cancer](#). *BMJ*. 2026;394:e085211.
- Garigoli F, et al. [Peripheral artery disease: advances in medical therapy](#). *European Heart Journal*. 2026;ehag516.
- DiDomenico RJ, et al. [Deprescribing in Patients With Cardiovascular Disease Experiencing Polypharmacy: A Scientific Statement From the American Heart Association](#). *Circulation*. 2026;154:e00–e00.
- Mustafa A, et al. [A British Pharmacological Society Position Statement on Medications in Pregnancy and Lactation](#). *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*. 2026; 1-7.

Did you find the August edition of Therapeutics Today informative?

Please share any suggestions/comments that you might have!

Contact Us:
National Medicines Information Centre
St James's Hospital
Emmet House
138-140 Thomas Street
Dublin 8
D08 XN61

nmic@stjames.ie

(01) 473 0589

0818 727 727