

Therapeutics Today

A publication by the National Medicines Information Centre (NMIC)

March 2026



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Welcome to the March edition of Therapeutics Today. This month's issue will highlight information, including guidance and advice, recently published by various organisations. Readers are also reminded of previously published NMIC bulletins, which are available on our website www.nmic.ie.

We welcome any feedback or comments which can be provided using the feedback button below or by emailing the NMIC directly at nmic@stjames.ie.

Guidance and Advice

HSE National Clinical Guidelines

The National Clinical Programme for Diabetes and National Clinical Programme for Paediatric Diabetes have developed the following clinical guideline in response to the Novo Nordisk discontinuation of Levemir® (insulin detemir) in both Penfill® and Flexpen® forms.



[HSE National Clinical Guideline for Safe Diabetes Management following Levemir® \(Insulin Detemir\) Discontinuation](#) – published January 2026

The purpose of the guideline is to support clinicians in selecting and safely initiating alternative basal insulins in advance of the Levemir® (insulin detemir) discontinuation. Due to the large number of people living with diabetes (Type 1, 2, 3c (pancreatic), diabetes in pregnancy and gestational diabetes) on Levemir® a planned and pro-active approach is essential.

[Learn more](#)

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:



[Administering a medicine through an enteral feeding tube](#) - last updated 9th February 2026

[Using chloramphenicol during breastfeeding](#) - last updated 11th February 2026

[Managing the risks of using effervescent tablets in children](#) - last updated 11th February 2026

[Specific medicine switches for solid dose and liquid formulations](#) - last updated 13th February 2026

[Introduction to advanced therapy medicinal products \(ATMPs\)](#) - published 25th February 2026

[Travel health: resources to support clinical decisions](#) - last updated 26th February 2026

[Using solid oral dosage form antibiotics in children](#) - last updated 3rd March 2026

[Using codeine, dihydrocodeine or tramadol during breastfeeding](#) - last updated 4th March 2026

[Learn more](#)

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.



[Type 2 diabetes in adults: management](#) [NG28] - last updated 18th February 2026

[Blood transfusion](#) [NG24] – last updated 26th February 2026

[Hypertension in adults: diagnosis and management](#) [NG136] - last updated 26th February 2026

[Learn 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:

- [Low-dose codeine](#)
- [Colchicine toxicity](#)

[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]).



Direct Healthcare Professional Communication (DHPC)

The HPRA have recently published the following safety information updates:

[Noradrenaline, Mykronor 5 µg/mL, solution for injection/infusion – potential risk of medication errors](#)

[Remsima \(infliximab\): New IV formulation \(100 mg and 350 mg concentrate for solution for infusion\) contains sorbitol and is therefore contraindicated in patients with hereditary fructose intolerance](#)

[Learn more](#)

Signposting

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

- Papas C, Muir J, Chan L. [Chronic pruritus of unknown origin: assessment and management in general practice](#). *British Journal of General Practice*. 2026 Feb 1;76(763):90-2.
- de Boer RA, et al. [Heart failure in the elderly: epidemiology, mechanisms, and management](#). *European Heart Journal*. 2026 Feb 28;ehag110.
- Azizi M, et al. New drug therapies for hypertension. *Lancet*. 2026 Feb 10;S0140-6736(25)02064-1. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(25)02064-1. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41687677. (Accessible by HSE staff on [HSE Library Ireland](#)).
- Abramowitz JS, et al. Management of obsessive-compulsive disorder in adults. *BMJ*. 2026;392:e083443.(Accessible by HSE staff on [HSE Library Ireland](#)).

What do you think of *Therapeutics Today*?

Please share any suggestions/comments that you might have!

[Feedback](#)

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