

Therapeutics Today

A publication by the National Medicines Information Centre (NMIC)

May 2026



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Welcome to the May 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

Prolonged-release Quetiapine: Clinical Advice from the HSE Office of the National Clinical Advisor and Group Lead for Mental Health



There are ongoing supply interruptions for medicines containing **prolonged-release quetiapine**; the shortages are expected to continue through the second quarter of 2026.

The HSE Office of the National Clinical Advisor and Group Lead for Mental Health has issued clinical advice to support prescribers and patients impacted by the current limited supply of authorised quetiapine prolonged-release tablets.

Patients who cannot source their usual medicine because of supply constraints should not stop treatment but are advised to discuss suitable alternatives with their healthcare professional.

[Clinical 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:

[Contraception: resources to support clinical decisions](#) - last updated 13th April 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.

[Menopause: identification and management \[NG23\]](#) - last updated 15th April 2026

[Learn more](#)

HSE-Medicines Management Programme (MMP)

Preferred Drugs Initiative



The MMP's Preferred Drugs Initiative identifies a single 'preferred drug' within a therapeutic class, and offers prescribers useful guidance on selecting, prescribing and monitoring the preferred drug for a particular condition.

The MMP previously completed an evaluation to identify a preferred proton pump inhibitor (PPI) for the treatment of gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (GORD). Following an updated evaluation, **pantoprazole** remains the preferred PPI for the treatment of GORD.

The MMP recommends that healthcare professionals:

- prescribe pantoprazole when initiating a PPI for GORD,
- review patients receiving PPIs for the treatment of GORD, switch to pantoprazole, and reduce to the lowest effective dose, with a view to deprescribing if clinically appropriate,
- switch patients to pantoprazole for the treatment of GORD, where continued treatment is necessary.

The MMP have developed resources to support healthcare professionals, including an evaluation report and prescribing tips and tools. These resources and further information are available on www.hse.ie/mmp under Preferred Drugs.

[Preferred Drugs](#)

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:

- [VTE thromboprophylaxis with enoxaparin for patients >100kg](#)

[Learn more](#)

Signposting

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

- Murray JA, Husby S. [Celiac Disease](#). *New England Journal of Medicine*. 2026 Apr 9;394(14):1421-9.
- Nowell J, et al. [Advances in the drug treatment of Alzheimer's disease: pathophysiology and mechanisms of action](#). *BMJ*. 2026 Apr 20;393:e078881.
- Sinclair JM, et al. [Evidence-based consensus guidelines for the pharmacological management of substance dependence: Recommendations from the British Association for Psychopharmacology](#). *Journal of Psychopharmacology*. 2026 Feb 23;DOI:10.1177/02698811251399593.
- Watson A, Chopra R, Muddaiah A. [Globus: a practical guide for general practice](#). *British Journal of General Practice*. 2025 May 1;75(754):237-238.
- Davis DM, et al. [Guidelines of care for the management of atopic dermatitis in pediatric patients](#). *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*. 2026 Apr 7;DOI:10.1016/j.jaad.2026.02.113.

What do you think of *Therapeutics Today*?



Please share any suggestions/comments that you might have!

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