

National Medicines Information Centre (NMIC)

Useful Medicines Information Resources [November 2025. Due for review Summer 2026]

Standard Irish Medicines Information Resources

Title	Content	Website <i>(freely accessible unless otherwise stated)</i>
Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC)	<p>The SmPC is a legal document that provides information for prescribers and HCPs on how to use a medicine safely and effectively in the treatment of a specific disease.</p> <p>The content of the SmPC is based on the assessment of data submitted by the marketing authorisation holder (MAH) and is approved by the national medicines regulatory authority (e.g. the Health Products Regulatory Authority [HPRA] in Ireland) or the European Medicines Agency (EMA).</p>	www.hpra.ie or www.medicines.ie
Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA)	In addition to hosting the SmPC, this website also includes educational materials for medicines (e.g. risk minimisation measures), Drug Safety Newsletters, medicine shortages information, public assessment reports (reflecting the scientific conclusion reached by the HPRA following evaluation of a MA application) etc.	www.hpra.ie
HSE Antibiotic Prescribing	This website contains evidence-based antimicrobial guidelines for primary care in Ireland.	www.antibioticprescribing.ie
National Clinical Guidelines	Evidence-based guidelines published by the Department of Health. Guidelines that support evidence-based prescribing include: Management of an acute asthma attack in adults; Management of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; Adult type 1 diabetes mellitus; Appropriate prescribing of psychotropic medication for non-cognitive symptoms in people with dementia; Pharmacological management of cancer pain in adults; Management of constipation in adults receiving palliative care; Stop smoking and Infection prevention control (IPC)	www.gov.ie/en/collection/c9fa9a-national-clinical-guidelines
Medicines Management Programme (MMP)	<p>The MMP is a multi-disciplinary team which aims to enhance evidence-based and cost-effective prescribing. The MMP has published documents on topics including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preferred drugs including prescribing tips and tools.• Prescribing and cost guidance for inhaled treatments for asthma and COPD.• Prescribing information for individual clinical areas.	www.hse.ie/mmp
Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland	Developed by the National Immunisation Advisory Committee. The guidelines provide up-to-date and accurate information about vaccines and immunisation for healthcare professionals.	Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland HIQA

STOPP, START criteria (version 2)	Explicit criteria developed by a consensus method that facilitate medication review in multi-morbid older people in most clinical settings.	https://www.cgakit.com/m-2-stopp-start
HSE Health Library Ireland	The HSE Health Library Ireland is a national resource for HSE employees to access libraries, online resources and get support from HSE library staff.	www.hselibrary.ie <i>Accessible to HSE staff</i>
Primary Care Eligibility and Reimbursement Service (PCERS)	The Information available includes an up-to-date list of items that are reimbursed by the HSE (list of reimbursable items), annual and monthly reports on medication use in Ireland (PCRS annual report: statistical analysis of claims and payments) and monthly reports for GPs and pharmacists. Circulars to GPs and to pharmacists are also available here.	www.pcrs.ie
Irish College of General Practitioners (ICGP)	The ICGP publishes evidence-based 'Quick Reference Guides' on clinical areas of relevance to general practice, that include practical advice on medicine use.	www.icgp.ie <i>Accessible to ICGP members</i>
National Centre for Pharmacoeconomics (NCPE)	The NCPE assesses evidence for comparative effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of technologies for use by patients in Ireland. This is done through assessment of evidence submitted by manufacturers and independent systematic review. The NCPE also undertakes research to inform national guidelines for health technology assessment.	www.ncpe.ie
Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA)	HIQA's role is to promote quality and safety in the provision of health and personal social services for the benefit of the health and welfare of the public. Its website contains guidance for providers.	www.hiqa.ie
Irish Institute of Pharmacy (IiOP)	The IiOP website hosts a CPD system and procures CPD for pharmacists in Ireland.	https://iiop.ie <i>Accessible to pharmacists registered with the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland</i>
Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland	Information about registration, pharmacy practice, inspection and enforcement and complaints.	www.thepsi.ie/gns/home.aspx
Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI)	The RCPI publishes clinical guidelines that include practical advice on medicine use.	www.rcpi.ie <i>Some guidelines available only to members</i>
National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP)	The HSE NCCP develops national Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy (SACT) Regimens to support safe, evidence-based and cost-effective cancer treatment for all Irish cancer patients. Regimen information summaries and supportive care regimens can be found here. These regimens underpin the National Cancer Information System (NCIS) and include specific indications for specific drugs.	NCCP National SACT Regimens - HSE.ie

HSE National Clinical Programmes (NCP)	<p>The NCPs are the primary reference point for providing cross-service and cross programme solutions in relation to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New models / pathways of care based on population need • Clinical components of community-based care expansion • Acute and Unscheduled Care Development • Integrated end to end models of care 	National Clinical Programmes - HSE.ie
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Other standard medicines information resources.

Title	Content	Website and accessibility
British National Formulary (BNF)	The BNF is a prescribing resource that is regarded as the main independent source of medicines information in the UK. The BNF includes information from the UK SmPC and other resources; it includes monographs on individual medicines and has treatment summaries of various conditions. Note that some brand names and some therapeutic indications in the BNF may vary from those in Ireland.	https://about.medicinescomplete.com/ Subscription required; available via MedicinesComplete <i>(HSE staff may freely access this resource via MedicinesComplete on Health Library Ireland at www.hselibrary.ie)</i>
Martindale	Martindale is a complete drug reference that has thousands of monographs for drugs used worldwide and treatment summaries for various conditions.	https://about.medicinescomplete.com/ Subscription required; available via MedicinesComplete <i>(HSE staff may freely access this resource via MedicinesComplete on Health Library Ireland at www.hselibrary.ie)</i>
American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information (AHFS)	The AHFS drug information monographs are written for healthcare professionals and are based on drug entities which are available in the United States.	https://about.medicinescomplete.com/ Subscription required; available on MedicinesComplete
UK Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA – UK)	The MHRA is the UK's regulator of medicines, medical devices and blood components for transfusion, responsible for ensuring their safety, quality and effectiveness. This website includes the UK SmPCs.	https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/medicines-and-healthcare-products-regulatory-agency Freely accessible
National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)	UK NICE guidelines which provide evidence-based recommendations for topics including preventing and managing various conditions.	www.nice.org.uk Freely accessible
Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN)	Evidence-based clinical practice guidelines published by NHS Scotland.	www.sign.ac.uk Freely accessible

UK Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS)	The NHS Specialist Pharmacy Service is commissioned by NHS England. SPS provides impartial advice for pharmacists and other professionals across the NHS including guidance on administration of medicines, stability of medicines and use of medicines in breastfeeding.	www.sps.nhs.uk Freely accessible
European Medicines Agency (EMA)	The EMA is a decentralised agency of the European Union (EU) responsible for the scientific evaluation, supervision and safety monitoring of medicines in the EU. The SmPCs for products authorised by centralised European process are available on this website.	www.ema.europa.eu Freely accessible
Cochrane Library	The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR) is the leading journal and database for systematic reviews in health care.	https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/reviews Freely accessible
BMJ Best Practice	BMJ Best Practice is a point of care tool that combines recent research evidence, guideline and expert opinion.	https://bestpractice.bmj.com/ <i>(HSE staff may freely access this resource on Health Library Ireland at www.hselibrary.ie)</i>
Agilio: Diagnosis and Treatment Guidance (formerly known as Prodigy/CKS)	Agilio: Diagnosis and Treatment Guidance provides practical clinical guidance for common conditions and symptoms in primary care. The topics are developed by Clarity Informatics Ltd and funded by the UK's National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE).	https://about.medicinescomplete.com/ Subscription required; available via MedicinesComplete <i>(HSE staff may freely access this resource via MedicinesComplete on Health Library Ireland at www.hselibrary.ie)</i>
UpToDate®	UpToDate® is a US evidence-based clinical resource. It includes medical information, drug monographs, a drug interaction checker and medical calculators.	https://www.uptodate.com/contents/search Subscription required. <i>(HSE staff may freely access this resource on Health Library Ireland at www.hselibrary.ie)</i>

Medicines information resources on drug interactions

Title	Content	Website and accessibility
Stockley's Drug Interactions and Stockley's Interactions Checker	Two related references on drug interactions. Stockley's Interactions Checker provides concise monographs; the two resources should be used in conjunction with each other.	https://about.medicinescomplete.com/ Subscription required; available via MedicinesComplete <i>(HSE staff may freely access this resource via MedicinesComplete on Health Library Ireland at www.hselibrary.ie)</i>
UpToDate® Drug Interactions	A drug interactions checker is available via UpToDate®.	https://www.uptodate.com/drug-interactions Subscription required Registration required but freely accessible to HSE staff via Health Library Ireland (www.hselibrary.ie)
HIV Drug Interactions	This website is maintained by the University of Liverpool; it provides useful information on drug interactions with HIV medicines.	http://www.hiv-druginteractions.org Freely accessible
HEP Drug Interactions	This website is maintained by the University of Liverpool; it provides useful information on drug interactions with hepatitis medicines.	https://www.hep-druginteractions.org/checker Freely accessible
COVID-19 Drug Interactions	This website is maintained by the University of Liverpool; it is a resource that provides information on the drug-drug interaction risk of COVID-19 therapies (licensed and under investigation).	www.covid19-druginteractions.org Freely accessible
CredibleMeds®	This is a US database of medicines that prolong the QT interval and/or induce Torsades de Pointes; medicines are categorised according to risk. This resource comments on CYP3A4 drug interaction issues.	www.crediblemeds.org Registration required but freely accessible
Drugs.com Drug Interaction Checker	This is a US drug interactions resource. Healthcare professionals should access information under "professional mode".	http://www.drugs.com/drug_interactions.html Freely accessible
Medscape Drug Interaction Checker	This is a US drug interactions resource.	www.medscape.com/druginfo/druginterchecker Freely accessible

NMIC bulletins	The NMIC published 2 bulletins in 2020 on drug interactions, one of which was on the principles of drug interactions and the other on frequently asked questions on drug interactions.	Drug Interactions (1) - Principles FINAL.pdf Drug Interactions (2) - FAQ FINAL.pdf Freely accessible
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Medicines information resources on pregnancy

Title	Content	Website and accessibility
HSE Antibiotic Prescribing	Includes guidelines for prescribing antimicrobials in pregnancy.	www.antibioticprescribing.ie Freely accessible
National Clinical Guidelines in Obstetrics & Gynaecology	Several clinical guidelines available on the management of various conditions in pregnancy, including varicella and rheumatic diseases.	https://www.rcpi.ie/faculties/obstetricians-and-gynaecologists/national-clinical-guidelines-in-obstetrics-and-gynaecology/ Freely accessible
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists	There are a range of UK guidelines on women's health available including clinical Green-top Guidelines.	www.rcog.org.uk Freely accessible
Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS)	The Specialist Pharmacy Service (commissioned by NHS England) website includes a series of articles which discuss and signpost to advice on safe and effective treatment during pregnancy for a range of common conditions.	https://www.sps.nhs.uk/home/guidance/safety-in-pregnancy/ Freely accessible
UK Teratology Information Service (UKTIS)	Summary monographs for HCPs (prescribers can contact the NMIC for full information); the summaries provide important information on the background rate of birth defects and miscarriage.	www.uktis.org Subscription required
UKTIS Best Use of Medicines in Pregnancy (Bumps)	Information fact sheets produced by the UKTIS for pregnant women and their partners.	www.medicinesinpregnancy.org Freely accessible
MotherToBaby®	A US teratology information website which provides information for patients and HCPs.	mothertobaby.org/ Freely accessible

Medicines information resources on contraception

Title	Content	Website and accessibility
College of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (CoSRH) <i>Previously the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH)</i>	<p>The UK CoSRH website provides evidence-based guidance on contraception, with topics including drug interactions, missed pills, emergency hormonal contraception and contraceptive choices for women with certain medical conditions</p> <p>(Note that some of the contraceptives referred to may not be available in Ireland).</p>	<p>www.cosrh.org</p> <p>Freely accessible</p>
NMIC bulletins	<p>Two bulletins on contraception published in 2021.</p>	<p>Final Contraception Bulletin 1_methods.pdf</p> <p>Final Contraception Bulletin 2_specific populations.pdf</p> <p>Freely accessible</p>
Contraception: Your Questions Answered (John Guillebaud and Anne MacGregor)		<p>Book available to purchase</p>
Contraception Today (John Guillebaud)		<p>Book available to purchase</p>

Medicines information resources on lactation

Title	Content	Website and accessibility
HSE Antibiotic Prescribing	Includes guidelines for prescribing antimicrobials in lactation.	www.antibioticprescribing.ie Freely accessible
Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS)	The Specialist Pharmacy Service (commissioned by NHS England) website provides training and guidance to help decision making about the use of medicines in breastfeeding.	https://www.sps.nhs.uk/home/guidance/safety-in-breastfeeding/ Freely accessible
e-lactancia	This is a Spanish website, with English translation provided. It has a wide coverage of medicinal products with succinct entries and some monographs have short additional notes. Suitable alternatives are given where available.	www.e-lactancia.org/ Freely accessible
LactMed®	US database which includes monographs on the safety of medicines in breastfeeding.	www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK501922/ Freely accessible
NMIC bulletin	A bulletin on the use of medicines in breastfeeding women was published in 2021.	Use of Medicines in Breastfeeding Women FINAL.pdf Freely accessible
The Breastfeeding Network	This is a website that provides evidence-based and practical information for mothers who breastfeed; it has information leaflets on use of drugs in lactation.	www.breastfeedingnetwork.org.uk/drugs-factsheets/ Freely accessible
Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine	This website includes protocols (guidelines) aimed to facilitate best practices in breastfeeding medicine.	www.bfmed.org/ Freely accessible
Hale's Medications & Mothers' Milk	Online or print; online content may be updated in between published print editions.	www.halesmed.com Book available to purchase or online paid subscription

Medicines information resources on paediatrics

Title	Content	Website and accessibility
HSE Antibiotic Prescribing	Includes general prescribing principles for children and information on prescribing of antimicrobials for children.	www.antibioticprescribing.ie Freely accessible
British National Formulary for Children (BNFC)	The BNFC is the standard UK paediatric reference for prescribing and pharmacology.	about.medicinescomplete.com/ Subscription required; available via Medicines Complete <i>(HSE staff may freely access this resource via Medicines Complete on Health Library Ireland at www.hselibrary.ie)</i>
Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Paediatric Formulary	A hospital paediatric formulary including clinical guidelines developed by Children's Health Ireland (CHI).	Formulary hosted on the Clinibee platform, available via web browsers and mobile app. The Clinibee app (ensure that you use the most current version) is free to use on web and mobile; account registration required.
HSE National Clinical Programme (NCP) for paediatrics and neonatology	The NCP addresses health and well-being issues for infants and children up to 16 years of age. The programme also considers and advocates for transition services and health care improvements for young people aged 16-18, who fall outside the traditional paediatric services age group but who have specific needs from a health service. Recent guidance includes Anorexia Nervosa: The Management of the Paediatric Patient.	https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/paediatrics-neonatology/
Medicines for Children	A UK website which provides advice for HCPs and parents, including leaflets on specific medicines and general medicines advice. Medicines for Children is a partnership programme of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH), the Neonatal and Paediatric Pharmacy Group (NPPG) and the charity "WellChild".	www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk/ Freely accessible
Neonatal and Paediatric Pharmacy Group	Repository of paediatric resources including news, education and position statements; useful for keeping abreast of developments in the use of medicines in children.	https://nppg.org.uk/ Some content is available only to members
Merck Manual	US resource with the 'Professional Version' providing detailed medical information for HCPs and students; see 'Pediatrics' chapter.	https://www.merckmanuals.com/professional/pediatrics Freely accessible
NMIC bulletin	A bulletin providing an overview on the use of medicines in children was published in 2023.	Final use of medicines in children bulletin and references.pdf Freely accessible
Clinical Handbook of Psychotropic Drugs for Children and Adolescents (Elbe et al)	This Canadian resource provides guidance for those who prescribe, dispense and administer psychotropic drugs to children and adolescents. Its content is derived from various forms of published literature as well as from leading clinical experts.	Paperback or eBook available to purchase

Medicines information resources - miscellaneous

Title	Content	Website and accessibility
Administration of Medicines		
The NEWT Guidelines (Pharmacy Department, Wrexham Maelor Hospital, Wales)	The NEWT Guidelines provide information relating to medicines management in patients with enteral feeding tubes or swallowing difficulties.	www.newtguidelines.com/ Subscription required for access to individual drug monographs; some general guidance sections may be freely accessible
Handbook of Drug Administration via Enteral Feeding Tubes (Bradnam & White)	This reference includes options for patients unable to take solid oral dosage forms and provides information on the administration of specific branded and generic medicines via enteral feeding tubes.	about.medicinescomplete.com/ Online version available via subscription on MedicinesComplete <i>(HSE staff may freely access this resource via MedicinesComplete on Health Library Ireland at www.hselibrary.ie)</i>
Alternative/Herbal Medicinal Products		
Stockley's Herbal Medicines Interactions (Eds Williamson E, Driver S, Baxter K)	This is an evidence-based information source for healthcare professionals on the interactions of conventional medicines with herbal medicines, dietary supplements and nutraceuticals.	about.medicinescomplete.com/ Online version available via subscription on MedicinesComplete
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre	This freely accessible US website provides evidence-based monographs on herbal preparations that give brief information on uses (not just in cancer), mechanism of action, contraindications, adverse effects and interactions.	https://www.mskcc.org/cancer-care/diagnosis-treatment/symptom-management/integrative-medicine/herbs/search Freely accessible
Mayo Clinic	This US source has a section of its website dedicated to some common dietary supplements.	https://www.mayoclinic.org/drugs-supplements Freely accessible
Herbal Medicines	This resource provides information on the traditional uses of herbal medicines.	about.medicinescomplete.com/ Online version available via subscription on MedicinesComplete
Compatibility of Medicines		
NHS Injectable Medicines Guide (Medusa)	Medusa provides guidance on the preparation and administration of injectable medicines in adult and paediatric clinical areas.	https://www.medusaimg.nhs.uk/ Subscription required

ASHP® Injectable Drug Information™	This handbook provides information on IV compatibility and stability.	about.medicinescomplete.com/ Subscription required; available via MedicinesComplete <i>(HSE staff may freely access this resource via MedicinesComplete on Health Library Ireland at www.hselibrary.ie)</i>
Micromedex®	Merative Micromedex® is a US reference database for evidence-based drug, disease and toxicology information.	https://www.micromedexsolutions.com/ Subscription required
Palliative Care		
Palliative Care Formulary	This resource includes independent information on drugs used in palliative care.	about.medicinescomplete.com/ Subscription required; available via MedicinesComplete <i>(HSE staff may freely access this resource via MedicinesComplete on Health Library Ireland at www.hselibrary.ie)</i>
Palliative Meds Info (based at Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services pharmacy department)	The Palliative Meds Info service is a national service providing information for HCPs on all aspects of medicines use in palliative care.	https://olh.ie/palliative-meds-info/ Freely accessible
The Syringe Driver (Dickman A and Schneider J)	This textbook provides information on continuous subcutaneous infusions in palliative care.	Book available to purchase
Psychiatry		
The British Association for Psychopharmacology	Evidence-based guidelines for the treatment of psychiatric disorders.	www.bap.org.uk Freely accessible
The Maudsley® Prescribing Guidelines in Psychiatry (Taylor et al)	This UK resource provides information and guidance on prescribing in mental health.	Paperback or eBook available to purchase
The Psychotropic Drug Directory (Bazire)	This UK resource provides information on psychotropic drugs and medicine treatment options for mental health conditions.	about.medicinescomplete.com/ Available via subscription on MedicinesComplete
Clinical Handbook of Psychotropic Drugs for Children and Adolescents (Elbe et al)	This Canadian resource provides guidance for those who prescribe, dispense and administer psychotropic drugs to children and adolescents. Its content is derived from various forms of published literature as well as from leading clinical experts.	Paperback or eBook available to purchase
Clinical Handbook of Psychotropic Drugs (Procyshyn RM et al)	Comprehensive information on psychotropic medicines for adults; comparison charts and tables provide a quick overview of treatment options [US and Canadian tradenames].	Paperback or eBook available to purchase

HSE Mental Health Services Choice and Medication	This website provides independent information for patients and healthcare professionals on psychotropic drugs and mental health conditions.	https://www.choiceandmedication.org/ireland
Renal Impairment		
The Renal Drug Database	This resource provides drug monographs which include dosing information in normal and impaired renal function.	www.renaldrugdatabase.com Subscription required

Selected NMIC bulletins that may be of general interest

NMIC Bulletin	Freely accessible at:
Drug Interactions (1): General Principles	Drug Interactions (1) - Principles FINAL.pdf
Drug Interactions (2): Frequently Asked Questions	Drug Interactions (2) - FAQ FINAL.pdf
Drug-induced QT Prolongation	Final Drug-induced QT Prolongation.pdf
Use of medicines in breastfeeding women	Use of Medicines in Breastfeeding Women FINAL.pdf
How to review a clinical paper	Final How to Read a Paper with Refs attached 2022.pdf
Optimising prescribing for patients with polypharmacy in primary care	Final Optimising prescribing bulletin and references.pdf
Overview of deprescribing	Final deprescribing and references.docx.pdf
Overview of medication non-adherence	Final adherence bulletin and references.pdf
Use of medicines in children	Final use of medicines in children bulletin and references.pdf
Use of medicines with anticholinergic activity	Final Use of medicines with anticholinergic activity.pdf

Selected international professional organisations that publish clinical guidelines

Name of Organisation	Website
European professional organisations	
European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology	www.eadv.org
European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD)	www.easd.org

The European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (EULAR)	www.eular.org
European Society of Cardiology	www.escardio.org
UK professional organisations	
British Association of Dermatologists	www.bad.org.uk
British Society of Gastroenterology	www.bsg.org.uk
British Association for Psychopharmacology (BAP)	www.bap.org.uk
British Society for Rheumatology	www.rheumatology.org.uk
British Thoracic Society	www.brit-thoracic.org.uk
Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (Green-top guidelines)	www.rcog.org.uk
US professional organisations	
American Academy of Dermatology	www.aad.org
American College of Cardiology (ACC)	www.acc.org
American College of Chest Physicians	www.chestnet.org
American College of Rheumatology	www.rheumatology.org
American Diabetes Association (ADA)	www.diabetes.org
American Heart Association (AHA)	www.heart.org/en/news/guidelines-resource-center