



August 2025 | Issue 7

Welcome to the August edition of Therapeutics Today.

This 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 hope you enjoy our new look and we welcome any feedback or comments which can be emailed directly to nmic@stjames.ie.

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:

[Oral benzodiazepines and choosing equivalent doses](#) - last updated 2nd July 2025

[Switching between aminophylline and theophylline in adults](#) - last updated 4th July 2025

[Prescribing and switching between modified-release methylphenidate](#) - last updated 11th July 2025

[Using antipsychotics during breastfeeding](#) - published 14th July 2025

[The risks and principles of prescribing in pregnancy](#) - last updated 15th July 2025

[Safe use of medicines in palliative and end of life care](#) - published 17th July 2025

[Using transdermal patches safely in healthcare settings](#) - last updated 17th July 2025

[Avoiding animal contents within medicines](#) - published 22nd July 2025

[Key principles on avoiding ingredients in medicines](#) - published 22nd July 2025

[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. The following recently published or updated guidance may be of interest:

[Cardiovascular risk assessment and lipid modification](#) Quality standard [QS100] - last updated 23rd July 2025

[Learn more](#)



The Faculty of Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH)

The Faculty of Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH) in the UK is a multi-disciplinary professional membership organisation that provides evidence-based clinical guidance and standards, and offers training and lifelong education in the areas of sexual and reproductive healthcare. The FSRH has recently published the following statement:

FSRH CEU Statement: [Response to new study by Roland et al \(2025\), 'Oral contraceptives with progestogens desogestrel or levonorgestrel and risk of intracranial meningioma: national case-control study'](#) - published 3rd July 2025

[Learn more](#)



British Menopause Society (BMS)

The British Menopause Society (BMS) is the specialist authority for menopause and post reproductive health in the UK. Established in 1989, the BMS educates, informs and guides healthcare professionals, working in both primary and secondary care, on menopause and all aspects of post reproductive health. The BMS recently launched the following new tool:

New BMS Tool for Clinicians - [Measurement of serum estradiol in the menopause transition](#) - published 22nd July 2025

[Learn more](#)

HSE Antibiotic Prescribing



As readers are aware, the HSE antibiotic prescribing [website](#) is a very useful evidence-based antimicrobial information resource. Current updates to antibiotic prescribing include:

[Antimicrobial stewardship](#) - July 2025

♦ Mental health services - related AMS resources including [Video: Introduction to antimicrobial stewardship for prescribers in mental health services](#)

[Urinary tract infections](#) - July 2025

♦ Updated: [Decision aid for management of suspected UTI in adults aged 65 years and over or adults with a urinary catheter - relevant for all community settings](#).

♦ Updated: [Position statements on the use of dipstick urinalysis to assess for evidence of urinary tract infection \(UTI\) in adults](#).

For previous updates, readers can consult the *What's New?* button.

[What's New?](#)

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:

[Post-operative analgesia prescribing in standard patients](#)

[Post-operative Prescribing for Older, Frail Patients](#)

[Apixaban perioperatively](#)

[Learn more](#)



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. Recent publications can be found below:

Lithium - [Best Practice Guidelines for Prescribing and Monitoring of Lithium Therapy](#) - published June 2025

[Medication Safety Bulletin Edition No.6](#) - published June 2025

[Learn more](#)

Other News



Neonatal & Paediatric Pharmacy Group (NPPG)

The UK NPPG has recently published a position statement which has been endorsed by the UK Royal Pharmaceutical Society on [Off label use of Chloral Hydrate to Sedate Neonates and Children in Critical Care](#) (July 2025 update).

[Learn more](#)



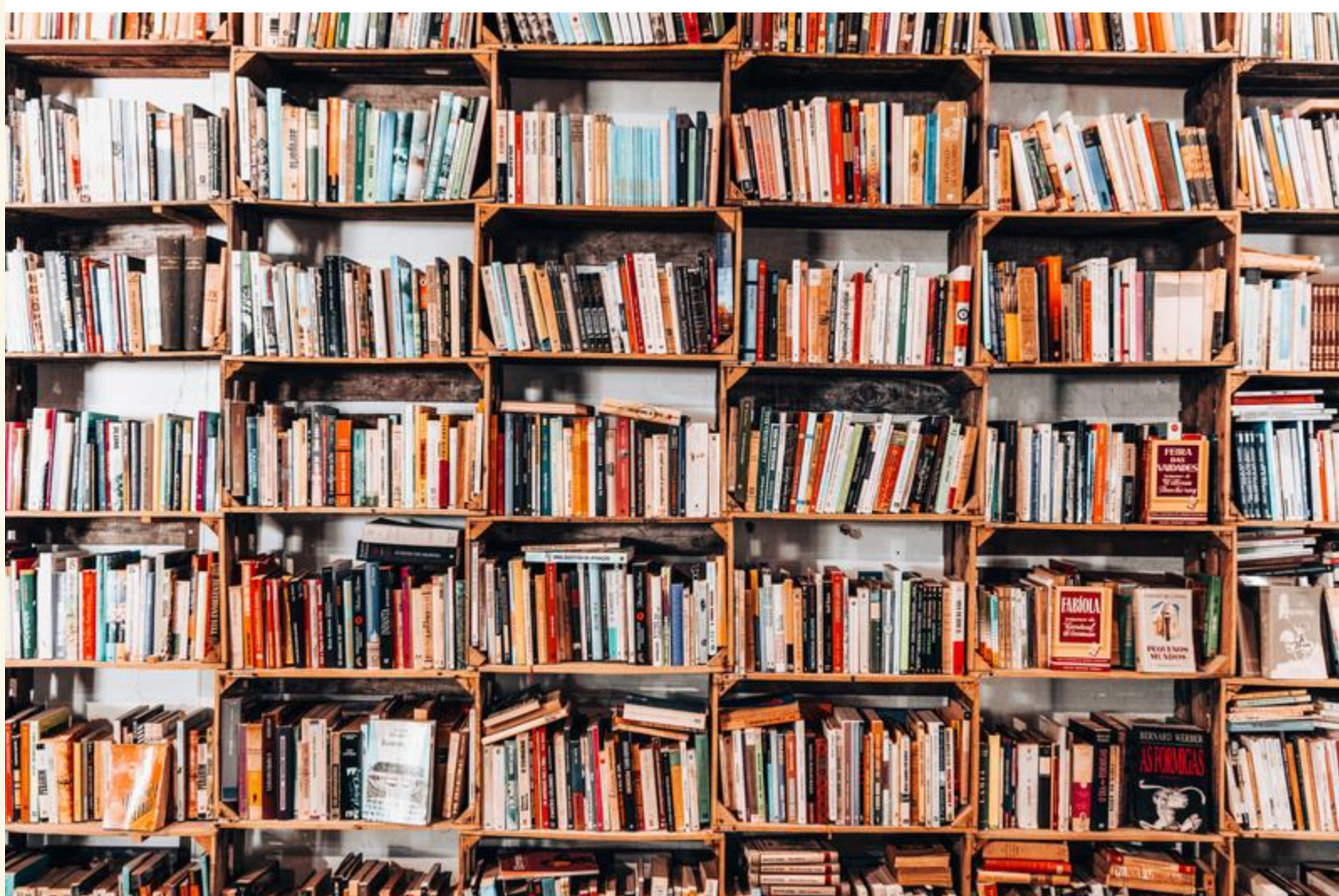
Irish Medication Safety Network (IMSN)

The Irish Medication Safety Network will host their annual Medication Safety conference in IMMA, Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin on Friday 21st November 2025.

Registration for the event will open in August and will be on the Eventbrite platform. The IMSN are now accepting submissions for their "pearls" presentations and posters via [this link](#).

[Learn more](#)

Signposting



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

Hillman S, et al. [When, why, and how to stop HRT: women and clinicians need more evidence](#). *British Journal of General Practice*. 2025 Jun 27;75(756):292-4.

Austin HA, Baldwin DS. [Lamotrigine treatment of mental health problems during the perinatal period](#). *The British Journal of Psychiatry*. 2025 July 2:1-3.

Kittleson MM, et al. [2025 ACC Scientific Statement on the Management of Obesity in Adults With Heart Failure: A Report of the American College of Cardiology](#). *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*. 2025 Jun 13.

Williams H, et al. [The problem of propranolol poisoning](#). *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*. 2025 Jul 3.

Song RM, et al. Delaying Progression of Chronic Kidney Disease. *JAMA*. Published online July 16, 2025. doi:10.1001/jama.2025.9532. (Accessible by HSE staff on [HSE Library Ireland](#)).

Mehrtash F, et al. Integrating Diet and Physical Activity When Prescribing GLP-1s—Lifestyle Factors Remain Crucial. *JAMA Intern Med*. Published online July 14, 2025. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2025.1794. (Accessible by HSE staff on [HSE Library Ireland](#)).

What do you think of our new look?
Please share any suggestions you have for further improvements on our design!



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