

# Therapeutics Today

A publication by the National Medicines Information Centre (NMIC)

December 2025



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## December 2025 | Issue 11

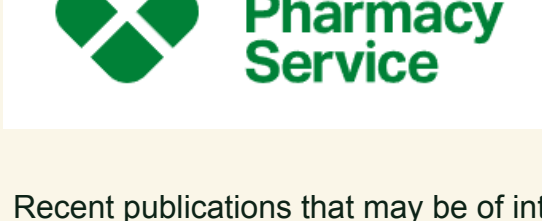
Welcome to the December edition of Therapeutics Today.

This issue will highlight information, including guidance and advice, recently published by various organisations.

Readers are also reminded of our recent NMIC bulletin '[An update on valproate](#)' which is available along with previous editions of our bulletins via our website [www.nmic.ie](http://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](mailto: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:

[Ensuring the safe use of amphotericin B injection](#) - published 25<sup>th</sup> November 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:

[Delgocitinib for treating moderate to severe chronic hand eczema \[TA1107\]](#) – published 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025

[Cabotegravir for preventing HIV-1 in adults and young people \[TA1106\]](#) – published 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025

[Darolutamide with androgen deprivation therapy for treating hormone-sensitive metastatic prostate cancer \[TA1109\]](#) – published 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025

[Suspected sepsis in people aged 16 or over: recognition, assessment and early management \[NG253\]](#) - published 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025

[Learn more](#)



### American College of Rheumatology (ACR)

Founded in 1934, the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) is a not-for-profit, professional association committed to advancing the specialty of rheumatology that serves over 10,500 physicians, health professionals, researchers and scientists worldwide.

The ACR have recently published the following guideline:

2025 American College of Rheumatology (ACR) [Guideline for the Treatment of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus](#) – published 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Recommendations emphasise uniform treatment with hydroxychloroquine, limiting duration of glucocorticoid use, and early introduction of immunosuppressants to achieve/maintain control of inflammation, reduce SLE-related morbidity/mortality, & minimise medication-related toxicities.

[Learn more](#)



### British Geriatrics Society (BGS)

The British Geriatrics Society (BGS) is the UK's first and only membership organisation of multidisciplinary professionals with an interest in improving healthcare for older people.

The BGS have recently published the following guidance:

2025 British Geriatrics Society (BGS) [Pragmatic prescribing to reduce harm for older people with moderate to severe frailty](#) – published 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Pragmatic prescribing to reduce harm for older people with moderate to severe frailty. This guidance aims to support prescribing decisions for older people with moderate to severe frailty (CFS score of 6-9). It provides more lenient therapeutic targets than standard guidelines, balancing potential benefits and harms of medicines in this population.

[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:

♦ [Urinary tract infections](#) - October 2025

Updated co-amoxiclav dose recommendation for acute pyelonephritis / upper UTI and upper CA-UTI: 875/125 mg every 8 hours is now the standard adult dose recommended for these indications.

♦ [Genital candidiasis \(Genital thrush\)](#) - November 2025

Minor update including the addition of a cautionary note that repeated single doses of fluconazole increase the likelihood of azole resistance and should be avoided where possible.

♦ [Bacterial vaginosis](#) - November 2025

Minor update regarding consideration of concurrent treatment of sexual partners of women with recurrent bacterial vaginosis (BV).

For previous updates, readers can consult the [What's New?](#) section.

[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:

[Opioids in renal impairment](#)

[Stealth medication](#)

[Methadone missed doses](#)

[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.

The IMSN have recently updated the following guidance on Medication and Falls Risk:

[Briefing Document on Medication Use and Falls Risk, Version 2.0](#) – published October 2025

[Learn more](#)



### European Medicines Association (EMA)

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) is a decentralised agency of the European Union (EU). It is responsible for the scientific evaluation, supervision and safety monitoring of medicines.

Following a review of medication errors, the European Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) has agreed on a direct healthcare professional communication advising extreme caution when handling and giving injectable tranexamic acid, to ensure it is only given intravenously.

[Injectable tranexamic acid: serious adverse reactions when inadvertently given intrathecally](#) - published 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025

[Learn more](#)

## Signposting



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

The Royal College of Psychiatrists and the British Association for Psychopharmacology (2025) [Position Statement PS03/25 – Gabapentinoids in psychiatric practice: Balancing the risks and benefits](#).

Horowitz M, Wilcock M. [Hyperbolic tapering of antidepressants: where are we now?](#) *Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin*. Published online first: 2025 Nov 9; doi: 10.1136/dtb.2024.000065.

Lin CW, Langford AV. [Opioid Deprescribing in Patients with Noncancer Pain](#). *New England Journal of Medicine*. 2025 Nov 6;393(18):1833-42.

Merino JL, et al. [Practical compendium of antiarrhythmic drugs: a clinical consensus statement of the European Heart Rhythm Association of the European Society of Cardiology](#). *EP Europace*. 2025 Aug;27(8):euaf076.

Krichevsky B, et al. [Human vs. artificial intelligence: Physicians outperform ChatGPT in real-world pharmacotherapy counselling](#). *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*. 2025 Oct;28:e70321.

Miller ES, et al. Pharmacologic Treatment of Perinatal Depression. *JAMA*. Published online: 2025 Nov 19; doi:10.1001/jama.2025.17250. (Accessible by HSE staff on [HSE Library Ireland](#)).

Huybrechts KF, et al. [Untangling the Risks of Antidepressants in Pregnancy](#). *New England Journal of Medicine*. 2025 Nov 22; doi:10.1056/NEJMp2511434.

What do you think of *Therapeutics Today*?  
Please share any suggestions/comments that you might have!

[Feedback](#)

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