

# Therapeutics Today

A publication by the National Medicines Information Centre (NMIC)

January 2026



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## January 2026 | Issue 1

Welcome to the January edition of Therapeutics Today. This issue will highlight information, including guidance and advice, recently published by various organisations. Readers are reminded of previously published NMIC bulletins, which are available on 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:

- [Advising on complementary products and conventional medicines](#) - last updated 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025
- [Managing complementary products and conventional medicines](#) - last updated 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025
- [Complementary products: resources to support answering questions](#) - last updated 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025
- [Using solid oral dosage form antibiotics in children](#) - last updated 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025
- [Switching between pyridostigmine and neostigmine](#) - last updated 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2025

[Learn more](#)



### Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN)

In Scotland, the development of evidence-based national clinical practice guidelines are sponsored and supported by the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN), which was established in 1993.

A recently published guideline (SIGN 173) focuses on managing chronic non-malignant pain (pain lasting longer than 12 weeks) in adults. It applies to non-specialist healthcare settings that are not specifically designed for treating chronic pain. Part 1 of the guideline includes recommendations and information on: opioids, naloxone, medicinal cannabis, antidepressants, pain management programmes, psychological interventions, self-help interventions, and occupation-based interventions. The second part of the guideline is expected to be added in Summer 2026.

[SIGN 173: Management of chronic pain \(part 1\)](#) - published December 2025

[Learn more](#)



### American Gastroenterological Association (AGA)

The AGA represents members from around the globe who are involved in all aspects of the science, practice, and advancement of gastroenterology.

The AGA has recently published the following (US) guideline on moderate-to-severe Crohn's disease which provides recommendations on pharmacologic management of adults with or without prior exposure to an advanced therapy, timing of using these therapies, their withdrawal, and medical management goals.

[AGA Living Clinical Practice Guideline on the Pharmacologic Management of Moderate-to-Severe Crohn's disease](#) – published November 2025

[Learn more](#)



### College of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (CoSRH)

Previously known as the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH), the CoSRH 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.

New conditions (i.e., multiple sclerosis, chronic kidney disease, sickle cell trait and multiple risk factors for VTE) have been included in the recently updated UK Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use (UKMEC) which helps clinicians decide what contraceptives they can safely recommend based on the medical conditions and characteristics of patients in their care.

[UK Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use \(UKMEC\)](#) – published December 2025

[Learn more](#)

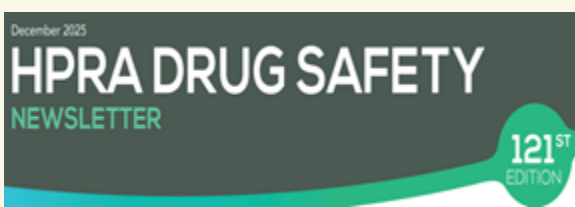


## Medication Safety

### 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]).

#### Drug Safety Newsletter: 121<sup>st</sup> Edition



The latest edition of the HPRA Drug Safety newsletter includes important updates to support the safe and appropriate use of the following medicines:

- Fezolinetant: Risk of drug-induced liver injury and new recommendations on monitoring of liver function before and during treatment.
- Enzalutamide and digoxin: Laboratory test interference leading to falsely elevated digoxin plasma levels and a reminder of the existing interaction.
- Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) analogues: Highlight and reminder of certain safety aspects.

[Read more](#)

#### Direct healthcare professional communication (DHPC)



The HPRA has also recently published an important safety information update from Novartis Ireland Limited: Carbamazepine (Tegretol 100 mg/5ml Oral Suspension); restriction of use in neonates as concentration of the excipient, propylene glycol, exceeds recommended threshold.

[Read more](#)

### 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:

- [Review the drug chart](#)
- [Electrolyte disturbance- medication-related](#)
- [Local anaesthetic systemic toxicity](#)
- [Hyperkalaemia, hypokalaemia – medication-induced](#)

[Learn more](#)



### The HSE Codeine Working Group

The HSE Codeine Working Group has issued the following memo which highlights that immediate action is required by healthcare professionals and services to reduce potential patient harm associated with low-dose codeine-containing products and promote safer alternatives.

[Reduce the risk of harm from low-dose codeine-containing products](#) – 5th January 2026

[Learn more](#)



## Events

### Irish Medication Safety Network (IMSN)

Celebrating 18 years of the IMSN, the 2025 conference took place at IMMA/ Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November.

[Speakers' presentations and posters of innovations can be accessed here](#)

[Learn more](#)



## Signposting



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

[WHO guideline on the use of glucagon-like peptide-1 \(GLP-1\) therapies for the treatment of obesity in adults](#). Geneva: World Health Organization; 2025. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

[WHO recommendations on care for women with diabetes during pregnancy](#). Geneva: World Health Organization; 2025. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

Herrington WG, et al. [Chronic kidney disease](#). *The Lancet*. 2025 Nov 25. Published Online 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2025. doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(25)01942-7.

Centre in Ireland for Clinical guideline support and Evidence Reviews (CICER). [The management of acute asthma attacks in adults: A systematic review of international clinical guidelines](#) - published 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2025.

What do you think of *Therapeutics Today*?

Please share any suggestions/comments that you might have!

[Feedback](#)

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