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## Resources to support answering medicines-related questions in primary care

Clinical pharmacists are taking on greater roles in primary care, particularly within general practice. They need access to reliable information about medicines. This document suggests resources for use in primary care to answer medicines-related questions.

Most of the resources listed are freely-available online.

For online resources that require subscription, prices are listed for a single user; other subscriptions may be available. For online resources available via Medicines Complete, prices vary depending upon the package purchased. Very few print resources are included in this list; prices are given for both print and electronic versions where available. Prices are correct at the time of writing (November 2016). It is up to individual medicines management teams, practices or consortia to decide whether or not to purchase these resources.

Medicines Information centres have access to all these resources and more. Telephone numbers for regional UKMi centres are listed in the inside cover of the print BNF and BNFC, and [online](#).

### SPS website

Resources previously available via the UKMi website are now on the SPS site at [www.sps.nhs.uk](http://www.sps.nhs.uk). They include:

Compliance aid stability	NICE Bites
Medicines safety in lactation	Patents information
Medicines Q&As	Patient Group Directions
New medicines information	Refrigerated medicines stability

A guide to finding information on the SPS website is available [here](#).

### This guide has the following sections:

- [General resources and guidelines](#)
- [Administration of medicines](#)
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- [Children](#)
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- [Drug stability / pharmaceutical issues](#)
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- [Pregnancy](#)
- [Travel medicine](#)

Comments on this document and suggestions for future updates are welcomed.

We hope you find it useful.



General resources and guidelines		
Title	Access	Content
<b>General resources</b>		
<p><b>British National Formulary (BNF)</b>  <a href="http://www.medicinescomplete.com">www.medicinescomplete.com</a>            and  <a href="http://www.evidence.nhs.uk">www.evidence.nhs.uk</a></p>	<p>Free access online.</p> <p>Print version, £50, supplied free of charge once yearly (September) to <a href="#">eligible health professionals</a>.</p> <p>BNF and BNFC apps for smartphones and tablets are freely available to anyone providing services to NHS patients. To access, first register for a free <a href="#">NHS OpenAthens</a> password.</p>	<p>Published twice yearly (March and September) in print; digital versions are updated monthly.</p> <p>Access via <a href="http://www.medicinescomplete.com">www.medicinescomplete.com</a> is free to individuals working for or on behalf of the NHS but users must register and then log in each time. There is no need to log in when accessing via the N3 gateway.</p> <p>After logging in, click on the publication you want. BNF and BNFC are the new format versions (the format was changed in 2015, a key difference being the removal of section numbering; information covering different indications for the systemic use of one drug is now in a single monograph). BNF Legacy and BNFC Legacy are in the old format.</p> <p>BNF and BNFC are also freely available via <a href="http://www.evidence.nhs.uk">www.evidence.nhs.uk</a>. Click on the link towards the top right corner of the homepage.</p> <p>CPPE produced an interactive PDF document with 10 case studies to help users familiarise themselves with the new layout of the BNF. It can be used with the paper or digital versions. To download it, first register with CPPE (free for healthcare professionals and students) <a href="#">here</a>. The interactive learning document is <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<p><b>BNF for Children (BNFC)</b>  <a href="http://www.medicinescomplete.com">www.medicinescomplete.com</a>            and  <a href="http://www.evidence.nhs.uk">www.evidence.nhs.uk</a></p>	<p>Same as BNF above.</p>	<p>Published annually in print (in September); digital versions are updated monthly.</p> <p>See BNF (above) for information about how to access</p>
<p><b>Drug Tariff</b>  <a href="http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/PrescriptionServices/4940.aspx">www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/PrescriptionServices/4940.aspx</a></p>	<p>Free access online.</p> <p>Print version supplied free of charge to community pharmacies and GP practices.</p>	<p>The Drug Tariff is published monthly and outlines what will be paid to pharmacy contractors for NHS services, drugs and appliances.</p> <p>Information about the Drug Tariff, including user guides are available by clicking on the tabs on the left of the screen.</p> <p>Some users have experienced problems accessing the electronic Drug Tariff via some internet browsers. If this is a problem for you, using the PDF version will help:</p> <p>To access the PDF version, click on the PDF symbol instead of 'enter'.</p> <p>Once open, you can search the PDF document using ctrl-F and then typing the term you are looking for. To go to a particular chapter, open the list of chapters using the 'bookmarks' tab on the left hand side, then click on the one you want.</p> <p>If you save the PDF for future use, remember to check you are using the current version.</p>



General resources and guidelines (continued)		
Title	Access	Content
<p><b>Martindale: the complete drug reference</b>  <a href="http://www.medicinescomplete.com">www.medicinescomplete.com</a></p> <p>Print ISBN: 978 0 85711 139 5</p>	<p>Online access £495/year for single user.</p> <p>Print version 38<sup>th</sup> edition (2014) £495</p>	<p>Martindale has monographs for thousands of drugs used worldwide and also provides treatment summaries for various conditions.</p> <p>The online version is updated more frequently than the paper copy. Medicines Information centres subscribe to the online version.</p>
<p><b>Medicines Q&amp;As</b>  <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a> and  <a href="http://www.evidence.nhs.uk">www.evidence.nhs.uk</a></p>	<p>Free access online</p>	<p>Medicines Q&amp;As provide evidence-based answers to questions about medicines; they are produced by UKMi pharmacists.</p> <p>On the SPS website, type your search terms then select 'SPS' from the list of filters on the right side of the screen.</p> <p>From the Evidence Search website homepage type your search terms plus "Q&amp;A". To further narrow down your search, click on 'Sources' in the 'Filter by' list on the left hand side of the screen and then select 'SPS' from the list that appears.</p>
<p><b>NHS Choices</b>  <a href="http://www.nhs.uk">www.nhs.uk</a></p>	<p>Free access online</p>	<p>This website is provided by the NHS for patients and professionals. It provides information on hundreds of conditions and advice on healthy living.</p>
<p><b>Summaries of Product Characteristics (SPCs)</b></p> <p>Available from:</p> <p>electronic Medicines Compendium  <a href="http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/">www.medicines.org.uk/emc/</a></p> <p>and</p> <p>MHRA  <a href="http://www.mhra.gov.uk/spc-pil/">www.mhra.gov.uk/spc-pil/</a></p>	<p>Free access online</p>	<p>Summaries of Product Characteristics (SPCs) and Patient Information Leaflets (PILs) are available for most UK-licensed products via the eMC website.</p> <p>SPCs are useful for checking the licensed indications, doses, cautions, contraindications and monitoring requirements of a medicine. They can provide helpful information on excipients and on adverse effects. They give the manufacturer's position on the use of a medicine in pregnancy and breastfeeding.</p> <p>There is an <b>Advanced</b> Search function that can be helpful. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To find products by indication</li> <li>• To find products with or without a specific excipient or ingredient</li> <li>• To find a tablet with specific markings (for identification)</li> </ul> <p>To perform an advanced search: Click on 'Advanced search' to the bottom right of the search box.</p> <p>You can choose to search by word or phrase, or to search by SPC section. The search by section function is particularly helpful – choose the section of the SPC you want then 'contains' or 'does not contain' and the words you do or do not want. Click 'add' to add another section.</p>



General resources and guidelines (continued)		
Title	Access	Content
<b>Guidelines</b>		
The following websites are useful sources of clinical guidelines:		
<b>Clinical Knowledge Summaries (CKS)</b> <a href="http://cks.nice.org.uk/">http://cks.nice.org.uk/</a>	Free access online	<p>CKS evidence-based guidelines are for healthcare professionals in primary care and more user-friendly than NICE guidance (on which many are based). Each guideline can be navigated using headings to the left side of the screen.</p> <p>Use the 'Have I got the right topic?' section to see which patients and age groups the guideline does and does not cover. The 'How up-to-date is this topic?' section lists any recent changes.</p> <p>The 'Management' section is particularly useful and explains how to manage various scenarios. It is laid out as a series of questions and answers; evidence (basis for recommendation) is provided to support the recommendations.</p> <p>Scenarios can include management of conditions in women who are pregnant or breastfeeding, children, people with allergies and other patient groups.</p>
<b>National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)</b> <a href="http://www.nice.org.uk">www.nice.org.uk</a>	Free access online	<p>NICE guidelines make evidence-based recommendations for topics including preventing and managing various conditions, improving health, and providing social care for adults and children.</p> <p>NICE Technology Appraisals consider the cost-effectiveness of health technologies, including medicines.</p>
<b>NICE Bites</b> <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a> and <a href="http://www.evidence.nhs.uk">www.evidence.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	<p>These are concise summaries of NICE guidelines, published by UKMi and published monthly. Previous editions are available on the SPS website and NICE Evidence (see below).</p>
<b>Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN)</b> <a href="http://www.sign.ac.uk">www.sign.ac.uk</a>	Free online access	<p>SIGN produces evidence-based clinical practice guidelines for the NHS in Scotland.</p>
<b>NICE Evidence</b> <a href="http://www.evidence.nhs.uk">www.evidence.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	<p>NICE Evidence provides links to UK and other guidelines. Search for the topic you want, then select the filter 'type of information' then 'guidelines'.</p> <p>You can also filter by 'sources' – choose the organisation you want. This can be a helpful way to find guidelines produced by national professional bodies (e.g. British Association of Dermatologists, Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare).</p>



Administration of medicines		
Title	Access	Content
<b>General resources</b>		
British National Formulary and BNFC	See earlier	Some drug monographs include a 'directions for administration' section. This is after the dosage information and any information on contraindication, cautions, interactions, side effects, use in hepatic and renal impairment and drug monitoring.
Medicines Q&As <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	There are Medicines Q&As on the therapeutic options for patients unable to swallow solid oral dosage forms, injections that can be administered enterally, and covert administration of medicines.
SPCs <a href="http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/">www.medicines.org.uk/emc/</a>	See earlier	Instructions for drug administration are in section 4.2 posology and method of administration. Some SPCs include information about opening capsules or crushing tablets for administration to children or patients with swallowing difficulties.
<b>More specialised resources</b>		
The NEWT (North East Wales NHS Trust) Guidelines for administration of medicines to patients with enteral feeding tubes or swallowing difficulties  <a href="http://www.newtguidelines.com">www.newtguidelines.com</a>  Print ISBN: 978 0 95525 153 5	Online access £50/year for single user.  Print 3 <sup>rd</sup> edition (2015) £35	This guidance document produced by an NHS Trust gives recommendations for administering specific medicines to patients with enteral feeding tubes and for patients with swallowing difficulties. Drug monographs are listed alphabetically. Introductory chapters cover practicalities, legalities and general guidance for administering medicines for patients unable to swallow solid oral dosage forms.  NB: Online monographs are updated more frequently than the print version.
Drug administration via enteral feeding tubes <a href="http://www.medicinescomplete.com">www.medicinescomplete.com</a>  Print ISBN: 978 0 85711 162 3	Online access £110/year for single user.  Print 3 <sup>rd</sup> edition (2015) £50  eBook £30	This reference text lists options for patients unable to take solid oral dosage forms. It provides information on the suitability of specific branded and generic medicines, for administration via enteral feeding tubes. Introductory chapters cover various aspects of drug administration via this route.  NB: Online monographs are updated more frequently than the print version.



Adverse drug reactions		
Title	Access	Content
<b>General resources</b>		
British National Formulary and BNFC	See earlier	Information on adverse effects, cautions and contra-indications are included in drug monographs; adverse effects common to a class are listed first, followed by those relating to individual drugs. Important safety concerns may be highlighted in boxes within monographs.
Martindale <a href="http://www.medicinescomplete.com">www.medicinescomplete.com</a>	Subscription required (see earlier)	Many drug monographs include information about the safety in breastfeeding, in the adverse effects, treatment and precautions sections.
Medicines Q&As <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	Some Medicines Q&As relate to adverse effects.
SPCs <a href="http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/">www.medicines.org.uk/emc/</a>	Free access online	SPCs include undesirable effects (section 4.8), contraindications (4.3) and special warnings and precautions for use (4.4).
<b>More specialised resources</b>		
MHRA interactive Drug Analysis Profiles (iDAPs) <a href="https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/iDAP/">https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/iDAP/</a>	Free access online	<p>Interactive Drug Analysis Profiles (iDAPs) are a new way to display data from the Yellow Card Scheme. They replace Drug Analysis Prints (DAPs) that provided information on the number of reports received for a drug.</p> <p>Each iDAP provides an overview of spontaneous suspected adverse drug reactions reported through the UK Yellow Card Scheme. Reports are of reactions suspected of being medicine-related; a causal association may not have been confirmed.</p> <p>The number of reports can be viewed according to factors such as patient age or sex, or by year of report.</p> <p>Suspected reactions are listed by system organ class. The list is expandable into smaller divisions, allowing the user to see the number of reports for specific reactions.</p> <p>Each iDAP contains essential guidance (at the bottom of the report) that explains the context of the data available.</p> <p>To find an individual iDAP, use the A-Z list to choose the drug you want. Medicines are listed alphabetically by active ingredient. iDAPs are not available for combination drugs; individual iDAPS include a column showing the number of reports for medicines containing 'multiple active constituents'.</p>
MHRA Drug Safety Update <a href="http://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update">www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update</a>	Free access online	Published monthly, this bulletin highlights current areas of concern. Individual articles are listed on the website; the full bulletin can be downloaded as a PDF.
<a href="#">NHS Patient Safety</a>	Free access online	This website provides links to patient safety alerts, some of which are related to medicines.
<b>Other sources</b>		
Company medical information departments. Contact details for most manufacturers are available on the <a href="#">eMC</a> website.	Free	Drug manufacturers may have unpublished data on file regarding reports of adverse reactions.



Breast feeding		
Title	Access	Content
<b>General resources</b>		
British National Formulary and BNFC	See earlier	Drug monographs include very brief information on safety of drugs in breastfeeding.
Clinical Knowledge Summaries <a href="http://cks.nice.org.uk/">http://cks.nice.org.uk/</a>	Free access online	Many CKS guidelines include information on the management of conditions in women who are pregnant or breastfeeding. There is also a monograph specifically on breastfeeding problems.
Medicines Q&As <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	Several Medicines Q&As relate to the use of drugs in breastfeeding.
SPCs <a href="http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc">www.medicines.org.uk/emc</a>	Free access online	Section 4.6 (pregnancy and lactation) clarifies the licensed status of medicines use during lactation. This is sometimes more cautious than current evidence requires.
<b>More specialised resources</b>		
Medicines safety in lactation (SPS) <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	<p>These monographs provide a useful, quick reference source. They are maintained by the UKMi Drugs in Lactation Advisory Service.</p> <p>To find information, search for a specific drug, class or conditions. Then choose the 'Safety in lactation' filter in the 'Usage' section in the list on the right side of the screen.</p> <p>This will bring up a list of monographs, and relevant Medicines Q&amp;As.</p>
LactMed <a href="http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/sis/htmlgen?LACT">http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/sis/htmlgen?LACT</a>	Free access online	<p>This database is part of TOXNET, the US equivalent of TOXBASE (see the pregnancy section of this guide) and includes monographs on the safety of drugs in breastfeeding. To search for a drug monograph type the drug or brand name in the box and click on 'search'; then select the monograph you want from the list of hits. Monographs are referenced and have the date of last revision is at the bottom (written as year, month, day).</p> <p>NB: US brand names may differ from UK brand names.</p>
<p>Notes:</p> <p>Unless specified otherwise, information applies only to healthy, full-term infants. Additional advice must be sought if the infant is pre-term or has compromised health.</p> <p>UKMi medicines information centres have access to additional resources if further information is required or the enquiry cannot be answered from the resources available.</p>		



Children		
Title	Access	Content
<b>General resources</b>		
BNFC	See earlier	The BNFC is the standard UK resource for information on the use of medicines for children.
Clinical Knowledge Summaries <a href="http://cks.nice.org.uk/">http://cks.nice.org.uk/</a>	Free online access	See the 'Have I got the right topic?' section to see which age group the guideline applies to.
SPCs <a href="http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/">www.medicines.org.uk/emc/</a>	Free access online	SPCs provide information on the age for which the medicine is licensed.
<b>More specialised resources</b>		
Medicines for Children <a href="http://www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk/">www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk/</a>	Free access online	This website provides access to useful leaflets for health professionals, parents and carers. There are leaflets on specific medicines and for general medicines advice. There are also useful leaflets giving practical advice on how to administer medicines, eye drops, ear drops and other forms, to children.  The website is maintained by the RCPCH (Royal College of Paediatric and Child Health), the NPPC (Neonatal and Paediatric Pharmacists Group) and the charity 'Wellform'.
Children's Hospitals websites For example: <a href="#">Great Ormond Street Hospital</a> and <a href="#">Royal Manchester Children's Hospital</a>	Free access online	Many children's hospital websites provide leaflets for parents and carers about different treatments and medicines.
Notes: UKMi medicines information centres have access to additional resources.		



Complementary medicines		
Title	Access	Content
<b>General resources</b>		
Medicines Q&As <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	Several Medicines Q&As relate to the use of herbal or complementary medicines.
Martindale <a href="http://www.medicinescomplete.com">www.medicinescomplete.com</a>	Subscription required (see earlier)	Martindale includes monographs on many herbal and complementary medicines.
<b>More specialised resources</b>		
<a href="http://www.mskcc.org">Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre (USA)</a>	Free access online	This 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. Each monograph is divided into two sections: information for patients/caregivers and information for healthcare professionals. They are written in plain English and are referenced. The date of review is at the bottom.  To view, browse the A-Z list to find the monograph you want. There is a link to FAQs on the right of the screen.
Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database <a href="http://www.naturaldatabase.com">www.naturaldatabase.com</a>	>£300/year	Some UKMi Medicines Information centres subscribe to this database, which is the preferred resource for information about herbal medicines. It provides evidence-based information on indications, efficacy, safety, adverse effects, interactions and mechanism of action. Each monograph is referenced and has the dates it was last reviewed and updated.
Stockley's Herbal Medicines Interactions <a href="http://www.medicinescomplete.com">www.medicinescomplete.com</a>  Print ISBN: 978 0 85711 026 8	Online access £140/year for single user.  Print 2nd edition (2013) £75	This resource provides information on interactions of commonly used herbal medicines, dietary supplements and nutraceuticals with conventional medicines.
Notes: Some UKMi medicines information centres have access to further resources.		



Contraception and family planning		
Title	Access	Content
<b>General resources</b>		
Medicines Q&As <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	Some Medicines Q&As relate to contraceptive use.
Clinical Knowledge Summaries <a href="http://cks.nice.org.uk/">http://cks.nice.org.uk/</a>	Free online access	There are a variety of guidelines for contraceptive use, including assessment, natural family planning, barrier methods and spermicides, combined hormonal methods, progestogen-only methods, intra-uterine methods, sterilization and emergency contraception.
<b>More specialised resources</b>		
Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH) <a href="http://www.fsrh.org/">www.fsrh.org/</a>  (previously the Faculty of Family Planning and Reproductive Healthcare (FFPRHC))	Free access online	This site provides access to useful guidance documents produced by FSRH, a faculty of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.  To view available documents, click on 'Standards and Guidance' in the bar towards the top of the homepage. There are four useful sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UKMEC (UK medical eligibility criteria) for contraceptive use. These show the contraceptive options available for women according to factors such as age, smoking cessation, family and personal medical history.</li> <li>• Current Clinical Guidance</li> <li>• Clinical Statements</li> <li>• Clinical Standards</li> </ul> Guidance, statements and standards are listed in date order with the most recent at the top. There is a search function to find the one you want.
Contraception: Your Questions Answered. Guillebaud J. Print ISBN: 978 0 70204 619 3	6 <sup>th</sup> edition (2012) £35 eBook £30	This comprehensive resource provides information on all forms of hormonal contraceptives including injectables, implants, intra-uterine devices and emergency contraception. It is written as a question and answer format and has a detailed index.
The Pill and other forms of hormonal contraception: the facts. Guillebaud J. Print ISBN: 978 0 19959 576 9	7 <sup>th</sup> edition (2009) £10 eBook £10	Less comprehensive than Contraception: your questions answered (see above), it is aimed at members of the public rather than health professionals.

Diagnostic tests		
Title	Access	Content
Lab Tests Online UK <a href="http://www.labtestsonline.org.uk">www.labtestsonline.org.uk</a>	Free access online	This website is aimed at patients and provides useful information about specific laboratory tests. For each test it describes the sample used, why it is tested and what abnormal results can indicate. It is produced by the Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine.



Drug interactions		
Title	Access	Content
<b>General resources</b>		
British National Formulary and BNFC	See earlier	Via <a href="http://www.medicinescomplete.com">www.medicinescomplete.com</a> : Search for the drug you want then click on the 'interactions' tab to bring up a list of interactions (previously Appendix 1). Interactions shown in bold type on a red background are considered most clinically relevant. Via <a href="http://www.evidence.nhs.uk">www.evidence.nhs.uk</a> : Click on Appendix 'A1 interactions' then select 'list of drug interactions' and choose the drug you want.
Medicines Q&As <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	Several Medicines Q&As relate to drug interactions.
SPCs <a href="http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/">www.medicines.org.uk/emc/</a>	Free access online	The following sections can be useful for information on interactions: 4.3 (contraindications), 4.4 (special warnings and precautions) and 4.5 (interactions).
<b>More specialised resources</b>		
Cytochrome p450 interactions checker <a href="http://medicine.iupui.edu/flockhart/">http://medicine.iupui.edu/flockhart/</a>	Free access online	This US site provides tables of medicines that induce, inhibit, or are substrates of cytochrome P450 isoenzymes. A separate table lists clinically relevant drug interactions. NB: The site was last updated in 2009.
HIV drug interactions checker <a href="http://www.hiv-druginteractions.org/">www.hiv-druginteractions.org/</a>	Free access online	Maintained by the University of Liverpool, this website provides useful information on interactions with HIV medicines. There is an interactive checker and printable charts, including 'treatment selectors': tables showing the therapeutic options (e.g. for analgesia, antidepressants, contraceptives) and their potential for interactions with different HIV medicines.
QT interval interactions <a href="http://www.crediblemeds.org">www.crediblemeds.org</a>	Free access online (registration required)	This US site provides a database of medicines that prolong the QT interval and/or induce Torsades de Pointes; drugs are categorised according to risk.
Stockley's Drug Interactions <a href="http://www.medicinescomplete.com">www.medicinescomplete.com</a>  Print ISBN: 978 0 85711 270 5  Stockley's Drug Interactions Pocket Companion Print ISBN: 978 0 85711 265 1	Online access £395/year for single user. Print 11 <sup>th</sup> edition (2016) £195  Pocket companion (2016) £30	A standard reference text for drug interactions, the online version is updated more frequently than the paper copy. Medicines Information centres subscribe to the online version.  Concise summaries of information from Stockley's Drug Interactions.



Drug misuse		
Title	Access	Content
<b>General resources</b>		
British National Formulary and BNFC	See earlier	The chapter 'Controlled drugs and drug dependence' provides information on legislation relating to the prescribing of drugs associated with dependence or abuse, and prescribing for substance dependence.
Clinical Knowledge Summaries <a href="http://cks.nice.org.uk/">http://cks.nice.org.uk/</a>	Free access online	There are guidelines on topics including benzodiazepine and z-drug withdrawal, opioid dependence and problem drinking.
Martindale <a href="http://www.medicinescomplete.com">www.medicinescomplete.com</a>	Subscription required (see earlier)	Drug monographs state if a drug is restricted for use in sport. It uses the WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) list of drugs.
Medicines Q&As <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	There is a Medicines Q&A on the equivalent doses of benzodiazepines.
NICE <a href="http://www.nice.org.uk">www.nice.org.uk</a>	Free access online	There are a variety of relevant NICE documents available at <a href="https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/health-protection/drug-misuse">https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/health-protection/drug-misuse</a>
<b>More specialised resources</b>		
<a href="#">Drug misuse and dependence: UK guidelines on clinical management (The Orange Guide) 2007</a>	Free access online	The 'orange guide' is UK clinical guidance on the management of drug abuse published by the Department of Health. It was last published in 2007 despite a <a href="#">consultation</a> in 2014 that decided it should be updated.  NB: Do not confuse with the MHRA 'orange guide' on good practise in pharmaceutical manufacturing and distribution.
The Maudsley Prescribing guidelines in psychiatry. Taylor D. <a href="http://maudsley-prescribing-guidelines.co.uk/">http://maudsley-prescribing-guidelines.co.uk/</a> Print ISBN: 0470979488	12 <sup>th</sup> edition (2015) £50 eBook £60 Mobile App £50	This reference text includes a chapter on substance misuse.
Talk to Frank <a href="http://www.talktofrank.com">www.talktofrank.com</a>	Free access online	This independent, Government-funded website provides reliable information for young people and their parents or carers about all aspects of substance misuse.
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) Drugs and driving: the law <a href="http://www.gov.uk/drug-driving-law">www.gov.uk/drug-driving-law</a>	Free access online	A section of the DVLA website provides information on the law regarding driving and illicit drugs and prescription medicines, including <a href="#">advice for healthcare professionals</a> .
<b>Drugs in sport</b>		
UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) <a href="http://www.ukad.org.uk">www.ukad.org.uk</a>	Free access online	The 'Medications and substances' section (click on the tab towards the top of the screen) provides links to the current Prohibited List and information about TUEs (Therapeutic Use Exemptions).
WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) <a href="http://www.wada-ama.org">www.wada-ama.org</a>	Free access online	This site contains the current Prohibited List, published annually in October; the list comes into force on 1 <sup>st</sup> January the following year. There are a large number of 'Q&A' articles grouped by topic.



Drug stability / pharmaceutical issues		
Title	Access	Content
<b>General resources</b>		
Medicines Q&As <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	Medicines Q&As are available on lactose, arachis oil and other excipients used in medicines.
SPCs <a href="http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/">www.medicines.org.uk/emc/</a>	Free access online	Section 6 of SPCs includes a list of excipients, incompatibilities, shelf-life, special precautions for storage, 'nature and contents of container', and 'special precautions for disposal and other handling'.
<b>More specialised resources</b>		
Refrigerated medicines stability (SPS) <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	Information on the stability of medicines outside recommended storage conditions is available on the SPS website.  This replaces the UKMi 'Fridge database'.  Search for the product, vaccine or drug name you want, then click on the 'refrigerated medicines stability' tab on the right side of the screen.
Medicines in compliance aid stability (SPS) <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	Information on the stability of medicines transferred from their original packaging into multi-compartment compliance aids (MCA) is available on the SPS website.  This replaces the UKMi 'MCA stability database'.  Search for the product or drug name you want, then click on the 'Medicines in compliance aid stability' tab on the right side of the screen.
Notes: For information on crushing/splitting tablets or opening capsules see the medicines administration section of this guide.		



Identification of medicines		
Title	Access	Content
<b>General resources</b>		
SPCs <a href="http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/">www.medicines.org.uk/emc/</a>	Free access online	SPCs contain description of tablets in section 3, pharmaceutical form.  To look for a tablet or capsule with specific markings, use the 'advanced search' function (see earlier).
Martindale <a href="http://www.medicinescomplete.com">www.medicinescomplete.com</a>	Subscription required (see earlier)	Many foreign generic and brand names are included in drug monographs.
<b>More specialised resources</b>		
TICTAC <a href="http://www.tictac.org.uk/">www.tictac.org.uk/</a>	Via UKMi regional centres	UKMi regional centres have access to the TICTAC drug identification system. This searchable database contains pictures and descriptions of thousands of legal and illicit solid dose drugs.  Please provide as much information about the tablet or capsule you are trying to identify (e.g. markings, scoring, accurate size, shape and colour) as possible.
WebMD Pill Identification Tool <a href="http://www.webmd.com/pill-identification">www.webmd.com/pill-identification</a>	Free access online	This US database allows users to enter markings, colour and shape to identify tablets and capsules. Please note that these may not be the same as in the UK.
Royal Pharmaceutical Society list of foreign websites <a href="http://www.rpharms.com">www.rpharms.com</a>	Free access for RPS members only	The Royal Pharmaceutical Society has a list of websites that may be helpful in identifying medicines from specific countries. To find the list, search the website for 'foreign'.  Websites are listed in alphabetical order by country; please note that some of the websites do not provide information in English.
Notes:  Take into account all the available information when trying to identify products. For example, likely indication and patient's other medicines. It is not always possible to identify a tablet or capsule from its markings.		



Immunisation and vaccines (see also Travel)		
Title	Access	Content
<b>General resources</b>		
British National Formulary and BNFC	See earlier	Note that printed versions might be out of date. Always check the current immunisation schedule in an online source.
NHS Choices <a href="http://www.nhs.uk">www.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	Information for patients and carers, including the current vaccination schedule, is available via NHS Choices (click on 'Live well' or 'Health A-Z' then choose 'vaccinations').
SPCs <a href="http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/">www.medicines.org.uk/emc/</a>	Free access online	SPCs for vaccines are the same as for other prescription medicines.
<b>More specialised resources</b>		
Public Health England: Immunisation <a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/organizations/public-health-england/series/immunisation">www.gov.uk/government/organizations/public-health-england/series/immunisation</a>	Free access online	This section of the gov.uk website provides information for healthcare professionals, including the current routine vaccination schedule and links to the 'Green Book' and 'Vaccine Update' (see below).  There is a link to immunisation Patient Group Directions (PGD) templates to support national immunisation programmes.
Immunisation against infectious disease (the <i>Green Book</i> ) <a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/organizations/public-health-england/series/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book">www.gov.uk/government/organizations/public-health-england/series/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book</a>	Free access online (NB: Print versions are out of date)	Produced by Public Health England (previously by the Department of Health) this online book provides comprehensive advice on vaccines and vaccination. Individual chapters are updated as required. Click on the chapter you want to view.  <b>NB: Make sure to look at the current version; the website also allows access to the 2006 edition of the book which is out of date.</b>
Vaccine Update <a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/organizations/public-health-england/series/vaccine-update">www.gov.uk/government/organizations/public-health-england/series/vaccine-update</a>	Free access online	Vaccine Update is a monthly newsletter produced by Public Health England. Current and archive editions are available online.
Patient Group Directions <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	PGDs for vaccine administration are available via the SPS website. Search for the vaccine you want then click on the 'Patient Group Directions' tab in the 'Services Section' list on the right side of the screen.



<b>Mental health</b>		
<b>Title</b>	<b>Access</b>	<b>Content</b>
<b>General resources</b>		
Clinical Knowledge Summaries <a href="http://cks.nice.org.uk/">http://cks.nice.org.uk/</a>	Free access online	Guidelines include attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, dementia, eating disorders, psychosis and schizophrenia, self-harm, sleep disorders – shift work and jet lag. There are guidelines on depression in adults, in children, and antenatal/postnatal depression.
Medicines Q&As <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	There are Medicines Q&As on how to switch from one antidepressant to another, the choice of antidepressant for patients with conditions such as heart disease or epilepsy, interactions with other agents and serotonin syndrome.
<b>More specialised resources</b>		
Psychotropic Drug Directory. Bazire S. Print ISBN: 978 0 95557 588 4	2016 edition (2016) £35	These useful books are commonly used together to answer questions about medicines in psychiatry or to find information on the drug management of psychiatric conditions.
The Maudsley Prescribing guidelines in psychiatry. Taylor D. <a href="http://maudsley-prescribing-guidelines.co.uk/">http://maudsley-prescribing-guidelines.co.uk/</a> Print ISBN: 0470979488	12 <sup>th</sup> edition (2015) £50 eBook £60 Mobile App £50	



New medicines and horizon scanning		
Title	Access	Content
<p>The UKMi Horizon scanning service produces information to support managed entry of new drugs into the NHS. Resources are for NHS staff with budget setting, prescribing planning and medicines management responsibilities and are available in the <a href="#">New Medicines</a> section of the SPS website. Further information is available <a href="#">here</a>. Free registration is required for access to some information e.g predicted launch dates</p>		
<p>UKMi New Medicines monographs <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a> and <a href="http://www.evidence.nhs.uk">www.evidence.nhs.uk</a></p>	<p>Free access online (registration required for full access)</p>	<p>Produced by the UKMi Horizon scanning and medicines evaluations service, monographs are available for drugs in development and for up to two years post launch. Information provided includes indication, pharmacology and development status and a summary of trial data. Some information is only visible when you are logged in.</p> <p>Monographs also include links to independent medicines evaluations and regulatory documents.</p> <p>This replaces the UKMi New Drugs Online (NDO) database.</p> <p>Via SPS: Search by drug name or indication and use the filter 'new medicines' on the right side of the screen.</p> <p>Via NICE Evidence: Search for the drug name or indication, then use the following limits in the list on the left of the screen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Source: Specialist Pharmacy Service and</li> <li>• Type of information: Drug Horizon Scanning</li> </ul>
<p>New Medicines Newsletter <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a></p>	<p>Free access online</p>	<p>Published monthly, this newsletter highlights recent significant medicines regulatory changes.</p>
<p>Prescribing Outlook series <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a></p>	<p>Free access online</p>	<p>Produced by UKMi, this horizon scanning resource comprises three parts, published annually each autumn:</p> <p>Prescribing Outlook: New medicines – information on drugs expected to be launched in the following 12-18 months.</p> <p>Prescribing Outlook: National developments – information on national guidance and targets expected to have budgetary impact in the following 12-18 months.</p> <p>Prescribing Outlook: Cost Calculator – an excel spread sheet that uses data from the other PO publications to allow crude calculations of potential costs of prescribing changes for a local population.</p>
<p>Monthly list of new product evaluations <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a></p>	<p>Free access online</p>	<p>UKMi produces a list of new product evaluations that are freely available to NHS staff via the internet. It includes independent evaluations published in the last three years, or that are due to be published in the near future. The list is updated monthly.</p> <p>The latest edition is available on the SPS website. Either search for 'new product evaluations' or go to the 'new medicines' section of the website.</p>
<p>Notes:</p> <p>For NHS users familiar with producing reports from the UKMi NDO database (for example by company or by year) and who need this functionality for your work, please submit your request via the 'Ask a Question' button on the SPS website homepage, or contact your nearest regional UKMI medicines information centre or contact <a href="mailto:helen.davis@lrippu.nhs.uk">helen.davis@lrippu.nhs.uk</a> who will be able to help.</p>		



Palliative care		
Title	Access	Content
<b>General resources</b>		
British National Formulary	See earlier	The section 'Prescribing in palliative care' (in the 'Guidance on prescribing' section) includes information about pain and symptom management, medicines administration via syringe drivers and conversion from morphine to diamorphine.
Clinical Knowledge Summaries <a href="http://cks.nice.org.uk/">http://cks.nice.org.uk/</a>	Free access online	There are separate guidelines for different aspects of palliative care including pain, constipation, cough, dyspnoea, general issues, malignant skin ulcer, nausea and vomiting and secretions.
Medicines Q&As <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	Relevant Medicines Q&A s include switching to oral morphine from other opiates in palliative care and the management of hypersalivation.
<b>More specialised resources</b>		
Palliative Care Matters website <a href="http://www.pallcare.info">www.pallcare.info</a>	Free access online	This website is for healthcare professionals working in palliative care. It provides access to PANG (Palliative Care Adult Network Guidelines) – click on the link then navigate using the filters on the left side of the screen.  To access the syringe driver compatibility database, click on 'SD drug compatibility' towards the bottom of the list on the left of the screen.
PCF5 Palliative Care Formulary <a href="http://www.palliattedrugs.com">www.palliattedrugs.com</a>  Print ISBN: 978 0 95525 475 8	Online access £50/year for single user. Electronic PDF version £25  Print version 5 <sup>th</sup> edition (2015) £50	The PCF is a comprehensive resource for medicines in palliative care. The book is divided into drug monographs and general topics.
Palliative Drugs <a href="http://www.palliattedrugs.com">www.palliattedrugs.com</a>	Free access to content other than PCF5 (see above)	The companion website to the PCF, this website provides access to content other than the PCF itself. Free registration is required. A searchable database of observational data of drug compatibility (Syringe Driver Survey Database) is available (click on the tab marked SDSD). Other free content includes a document library and bulletin board.
Notes: It can be helpful to contact the community palliative care team or MacMillan nurse caring for the patient in order to answer specific questions.		



Patent expiry		
Title	Access	Content
Patents information (SPS) <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	Search for the product, vaccine or drug name you want, then click on the 'patent expiries' tab on the right side of the screen.  This resource replaces the UKMi 'Patents database'.
Prescribing Outlook – New Medicines <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	Prescribing Outlook-New Medicines (see the New Medicines section of this guide) includes a list of medicines whose patents will expire in the next three years.

Poisoning and toxicity		
Title	Access	Content
<b>General resources</b>		
British National Formulary and BNFC	See earlier	Drug monographs provide information on usual maximum doses that can be helpful.
SPCs <a href="http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/">www.medicines.org.uk/emc/</a>	Free access online	SPC section 4.9 (overdose) may provide information on the symptoms and management of toxicity. Section 5 (pharmacological properties) may also be helpful, for example to find a drug's half-life.
Martindale <a href="http://www.medicinescomplete.com">www.medicinescomplete.com</a>	Subscription required (see earlier)	Drug monographs may include information on higher-than-licensed doses. They also include information on pharmacokinetics.
<b>More specialised resources</b>		
TOXBASE <a href="http://www.toxbase.org">www.toxbase.org</a>	Free access online (registration required)  A mobile <a href="#">app</a> is also freely available to NHS staff.	This website provides information from the National Poisons Information Service (NPIS) on the symptoms and management of poisoning by medicines, plants, household chemicals and other substances.  Registration (free of charge to NHS and NHS-affiliated departments, units and practices) is required. One person is required to register on behalf of each department, unit or GP practice
Notes:  In cases of symptomatic toxicity, contact the National Poisons Information Service for advice on 0844 892 0111. This telephone number is available 24 hours a day and is for health care professionals only.		



Pregnancy		
Title	Access	Content
<b>General resources</b>		
British National Formulary	See above	Drug monographs include brief information on safety of drugs in pregnancy.
Clinical Knowledge Summaries <a href="http://cks.nice.org.uk/">http://cks.nice.org.uk/</a>	Free access online	Many guidelines include information on the management of that condition during pregnancy. There are specific guidelines on itch, dyspepsia and nausea and vomiting in pregnancy, as well as antenatal and postnatal depression. There is also a guideline for routine antenatal care.
Electronic Medicines Compendium <a href="http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/">www.medicines.org.uk/emc/</a>	Free access online	Most SPCs include the manufacturer's position of the use of that product in pregnant women. Some SPCs are overly cautious; check other sources for information but bear in mind the manufacturer's recommendation.
Medicines Q&As <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	Several Medicines Q&As relate to the use of drugs in pregnancy.
<b>More specialised resources</b>		
TOXBASE <a href="http://www.toxbase.org">www.toxbase.org</a>	Free access online (registration required)	Detailed monographs for health care professionals, produced by the UK Teratology Information Service (UKTIS) are available on the TOXBASE website. There are monographs on the safety of medicines and other agents, and on the management of various conditions during pregnancy.  NB: UKTIS also provide summary monographs for healthcare professionals (see UKTIS below) and monographs for patients (see BUMPS below). Free registration is required. From the homepage, click on 'Exposure in pregnancy' in the blue bar towards the top of the screen. The site includes some monographs on drugs in breastfeeding, and a link to the UKMi Drugs in Lactation website.
UKTIS <a href="http://www.uktis.org">www.uktis.org</a>	Free access online	Summary monographs for healthcare professionals are available; click on the 'Resources' section.
BUMPS (Best Use of Medicines in Pregnancy) <a href="http://www.medicinesinpregnancy.org/">www.medicinesinpregnancy.org/</a>	Free access online	This website provides information leaflets produced by UKTIS (see TOXBASE above) for pregnant women and their partners. Monographs cover a variety of medicines, drug classes, recreational drugs and products such as face cream and hair dye. There are fewer monographs than on TOXBASE.  The site also has an 'online reporting' facility for women to record their drug exposure during a current or previous pregnancy in order to help UKTIS understand how medicines, lifestyles or illnesses may affect foetal development.
<p>Notes:</p> <p>UKMi medicines information centres have access to further, more specialised resources.</p> <p>Health professionals may also contact UKTIS directly if necessary on 0344 892 0909. A routine enquiry-answering service is available between 9am and 5pm on weekday; urgent queries can be answered at all times.</p>		



Travel medicine (see also Immunisation and vaccines)		
Title	Access	Content
<b>General resources</b>		
British National Formulary and BNFC	See earlier	The BNF and BNFC include recommendations for malaria prophylaxis for travellers.
Medicines Q&As <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	Relevant Medicines Q&As include 'What advice should be given to patients with porphyria who intend to travel?' and 'What is the evidence for the use of LMWH for prophylaxis of travel-related thrombosis?'.
<b>More specialised resources</b>		
Fit for Travel <a href="http://www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk">www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	Produced by Health Protection Scotland, this is the sister-site to Travax (see below) and is freely available to members of the public and healthcare professionals. From the homepage, click on 'A to Z Index' to bring up a list of countries and topics.  Information for each country includes vaccine requirements and a colour-coded 'malaria map' showing which regions are considered high, medium and low risk for malaria.
NHS Choices Healthcare abroad - Advice for patients <a href="http://www.nhs.uk/nhsengland/Healthcareabroad/pages/Healthcareabroad.aspx">www.nhs.uk/nhsengland/Healthcareabroad/pages/Healthcareabroad.aspx</a>	Free access online	This site provides information for travellers, people emigrating and those travelling in order to obtain healthcare abroad. It also provides a link to the official EHIC (European Health Insurance Card) site.
Travax <a href="http://www.travax.nhs.uk">www.travax.nhs.uk</a>	£100/year for GP practice or pharmacy access; contact Travax for other access.	This site is produced for healthcare professionals by Health Protection Scotland. It provides up-to-date advice on vaccines, antimalarials and other aspects of travel medicine. Much of the information on Travax is freely available on Fit for Travel (see above).
Travel Health Pro <a href="http://www.travelhealthpro.org.uk">www.travelhealthpro.org.uk</a>	Free access online	Launched in 2015 by NaTHNaC (National Travel Health Centre and Centre), this website contains all NaTHNaC's travel health resources for healthcare professionals and travellers themselves.  To navigate the site, use the tool bar at the top, or use the search facility.
<p>For more complex enquiries:</p> <p>There is a NaTHNaC helpline available for healthcare professionals for questions regarding travel scenarios involving complex itineraries or travellers with special health needs. Please check other sources, including the Travel Health Pro website before contacting NaTHNaC and have all relevant background available. There is a checklist <a href="#">here</a> (click on 'Information for health professionals calling the advice line').</p> <p>The helpline number is 0845 602 6712; it is available (available 9:00-11:45 and 13:00-15:45 weekdays (closed Wednesday afternoons and bank holidays)).</p>		