



Dear Colleague

COMMUNITY PHARMACY ACCESS TO MEDICINES COMPLETE PACKAGE AND THE BRITISH NATIONAL FORMULARY (BNF)

Purpose

1. This Circular advises community pharmacy contractors of;

- Continuing access to the Medicines Complete package from 2019/20; and
- changes to the distribution arrangements for the British National Formulary (BNF).

Background – Medicines Complete

2. Medicines Complete provides online access to some of the world's leading drug and healthcare references, including access to eMartindale.

3. The existing access arrangements have been extended for a further 3 year period from April 2019 to March 2022.

4. Detail about the publications available and arrangements for accessing is contained at the **Annex**.

Background – British National Formulary (BNF)

5. The BNF is provided to eligible NHS healthcare professionals involved in using medicines. An updated version is currently provided to community pharmacies every six months in March and September.

6. The British National Formulary for Children (BNF(c)) is provided annually in September.

10 May 2019

Addresses

For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards

Director of Practitioner Service,
NHS NSS

For information

Chief Executive, NHS NSS

Directors of Pharmacy

Enquiries to:

Elaine Muirhead
Pharmacy & Medicines
Division
1st Floor East Rear
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG

Tel: 0131-244-3433

Email:
Elaine.Muirhead@gov.scot

www.gov.scot



Detail

7. From September 2019, **hard copies of the BNF will be issued to community pharmacies annually instead of bi-annually as part of the Medicines Complete contract arrangements. No March edition will be supplied.** Since 2015, other eligible NHS Scotland healthcare professionals been receiving only the September edition.
8. The BNF(c) will continue to be provided annually each September.
9. The BNF and BNF(c) are available as an App from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store, currently there is no requirement for a username.
10. Community Pharmacy Scotland has been consulted on this circular.

Action

11. NHS Boards are asked to bring this Circular to the attention of their community pharmacy contractors and local pharmacy committees.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rose Marie Parr".

Rose Marie Parr

Chief Pharmaceutical Officer and Deputy Director,
Pharmacy and Medicines Division

COMMUNITY PHARMACY ACCESS TO MEDICINES COMPLETE

Community Pharmacists are able to access the resource from the Knowledge Network at www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk under 'Medicines Information Resources' in the 'More Information Sources' section - you may have to scroll down to see this. You can also search for BNF or the other Medicines Complete titles in the Library Search. Click on the title of a result to connect through to Medicines Complete.

If you are connected to the NHS Network, you will be automatically logged in.

If you are not connected to the NHS Network, you will see Log in button top right. Select the Log In via Shibboleth/ OpenAthens. Start to type NHS in the box then select NES Knowledge Services:NHS Scotland. Sign in with your Knowledge Network OpenAthens username.

If you do not have or do not remember your Knowledge Network NHSScotland OpenAthens username, (begins efsxxx) please go to <http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home/register-or-sign-in.aspx> and click on the link to register or the forgotten password option apply for one as a new user.

Available Publications

The publications available via the Medicines Complete package are;

- BNF for Children (BNFC)
- British National Formulary (BNF)
- eMartindale: The Complete Drug Reference
- Handbook of drug administration via Enteral Feeding Tubes
- Kucer's the use of Antibiotics
- Palliative Care Drugs Formulary
- Stockley's Drug Interactions
- Plus hard copies of the BNF and BNFC.

There are many other useful journals and books on The Knowledge Network. If you need any help or support please contact knowledge@nes.scot.nhs.uk or your local NHSS librarian.