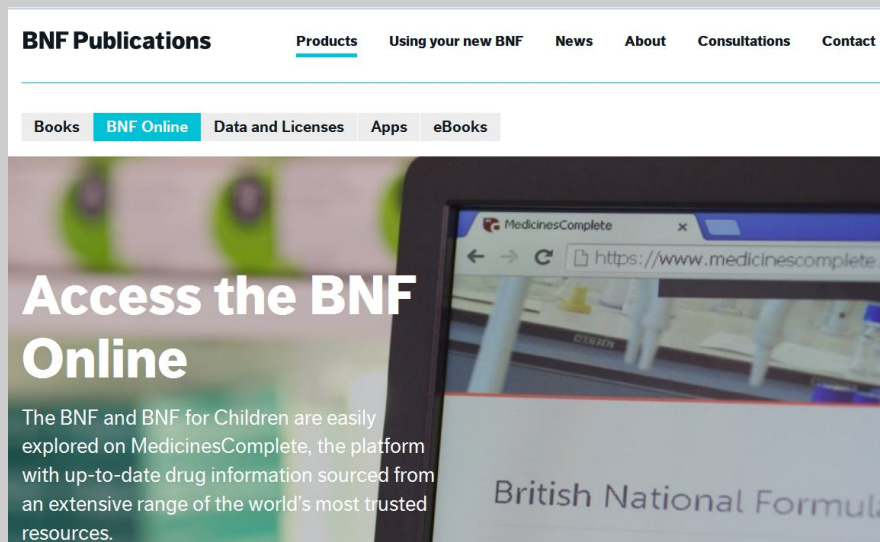


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The BNF and BNF for Children are easily explored on MedicinesComplete, the platform with up-to-date drug information sourced from an extensive range of the world's most trusted resources.

British National Formula

Logo



URL

<https://www.bnf.org/products/bnf-online/>

Subject

Medicine -- Great Britain--Formulae, receipts, prescriptions;

Accessibility

On subscription base

Language

English

Publisher

Pharmaceutical Press, London and Chicago

Brief History

The *British National Formulary* (BNF) is a United Kingdom (UK) pharmaceutical reference book that contains a wide spectrum of information and advice on prescribing and pharmacology, along with specific facts and details about many medicines available on the UK National Health Service (NHS). It was first published in 1949 as the *National Formulary*, with updated versions appearing every three years until 1976. The fifth version in 1957 saw its name change to *The British National Formulary*. A new look version was released in 1981. A study in Northern Ireland looking at prescribing in 1965, reported that the BNF was likely able to serve the requirements of prescribers in general practice, while also achieving a cost saving. By 2003, issue 46 of the BNF contained 3000 interactions or groups of interactions, with about 900 of these marked by a bullet. A new edition

of the BNF book is published twice-yearly; in March and September. As of September 2016, the current edition is 72, which was published in September 2016. It is a customary tradition that the color of each new edition is radically different from the previous.

Scope and Coverage

It is used by pharmacists and doctors (both general practitioners (GPs) and specialist practitioners), and by other prescribing healthcare professionals (such as nurses, pharmacy technicians, paramedics, and dentists); as a reference for correct dosage, indication, interactions and side effects of drugs. It is also used as a reassurance by those administering drugs, for example a nurse on a hospital ward, and even for patients and others seeking an authoritative source of advice on any aspect of pharmacotherapy.

The table of Contents of the *British National Formulary* includes Preface, Acknowledgements, idea about how BNF publications are constructed and how to use the BNF, Changes, Emergency supply of medicines, Controlled drugs and drug dependence, Adverse reactions to drugs, Guidance on intravenous infusions, Prescribing for children, Prescribing in hepatic impairment, renal impairment, pregnancy, breast-feeding, palliative care, Prescribing for the elderly, Drugs and sport, Prescribing in dental practice.

Notes on drugs and preparations are also included for the followings like Gastro-intestinal system, Cardiovascular system, Respiratory system, Nervous system, Infection, Endocrine system, Genito-urinary system, Malignant disease, Blood and nutrition, Musculoskeletal system, Eye, Ear, nose, and oropharynx, Skin, Vaccines, Anaesthesia and Emergency treatment of poisoning.

Kind of Information

Information within the BNF includes indication(s), contraindications, side effects, doses, legal classification, names and prices of available proprietary and generic formulations, and any other notable points. Though it is a national formulary, it nevertheless also includes entries for some medicines which are not available under the NHS, and must be prescribed and/or purchased privately. A symbol clearly denotes such drugs in their entry. The British Pharmacopoeia (BP) specifies quality standards for the making of drugs listed in the BNF. BNF Publications reflect current best practice as well as legal and professional guidelines relating to the uses of medicines. Content includes guidance on the drug management of common conditions, details of medicines with special reference to their uses, cautions, contra-indications, side-effects, doses, and relative costs, guidance on prescribing, monitoring, dispensing, and administering medicines.

Special Features

- The *British National Formulary for Children* (BNFC) book, first published September 2005, is published yearly, and details the doses and uses of medicines in children from neonates to adolescents. This is a sister publication of this formulary reference tool.

- The *Nurse Prescriber's Formulary for Community Practitioners* (NPF) is issued in print every two years (September, odd-numbered years), for use by District Nurses and Specialist Community Public Health Nurses (including Health Visitors) who have received training to become nurse prescribers. This is another sister project.

Arrangement Pattern The *British National Formulary* is divided into various sections; with the main sections on drugs and preparations being organized by body system. Table of Contents includes Preface, Acknowledgements, How BNF publications are constructed, How to use the BNF, Changes, Guidance on prescribing etc.

Remarks The British National Formulary (BNF) provides up-to-date, practical guidance on prescribing, dispensing, and administering medicines. This essential reference reflects current best practice as well as legal and professional guidelines relating to the uses of medicines. A new edition of the BNF book is published twice-yearly; in March and September. As of September 2016, the current edition is 72, which was published in September 2016. It is a customary tradition that the color of each new edition is radically different from the previous.

- Comparable Tools**
- e-Ayu: Formulary of India
(<https://dravyagunatvpm.wordpress.com/ayurvedic-formulary-of-india/>)
 - International Pharmacopoeia
(<http://apps.who.int/phint/en/p/about/>)
 - European Pharmacopoeia
(<https://www.edqm.eu/>)
 - Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission
(<http://ipc.nic.in/>)
 - Chinese Pharmacopoeia
(<http://wp.chp.org.cn/en/index.html>)
 - United States Pharmacopoeia
(<http://www.usp.org/>)
 - British Pharmacopoeia
(<https://www.pharmacopoeia.com/>)

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