



Dear Colleague

**Access to Medicines Complete package and the British National Formulary (BNF)**

1. This NHS Circular advises of;
  - access to the Medicines Complete package for 2015/16; 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 access arrangements have been extended for a further year from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.
4. Detail about the publications available and arrangements for accessing is contained at **Annex A**.

Background – British National Formulary (BNF)

4. The BNF is provided to eligible NHS healthcare professionals involved in using medicines. An updated version is currently provided every six months in March and September.
5. The British National Formulary for children (BNF(c)) is provided annually in September.

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**Addresses**

For action

Chief Executives, NHS  
Boards

For information

Chief Executive, NHS  
NSS

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6. The **BNF eligibility criteria** is attached at **Annex B**.

Detail

7. From **September 2015 hard copies of the BNF will be issued annually** to eligible NHS healthcare professionals.

8. However, community pharmacy contractors will continue to receive two hard copies, March and September editions, as part of the Medicines Complete contract arrangements.

9. Other UK Health Departments have already reduced their BNF print and distribution to once a year since September 2014.

10. The BNF(c) continues to be provided annually with the next distribution imminent.

11. The BNF and BNF(c) Apps continue to be available via the Knowledge Network's, ATHENS authentication and mobile knowledge portal. (See circular PCA (P) (2013) 3).

12. The BNF and BNF(c) Apps continue to provide easy access to the latest up-to-date prescribing information from the BNF and BNF(c). Both Apps are available via the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

Action

13. NHS Boards are asked to bring this Circular to the attention;

- community pharmacy contractors,
- local pharmacy committees,
- Community Health Partnerships,
- GP Practices; and
- NHS staff.

Yours sincerely



**Rose Marie Parr**

Chief Pharmaceutical Officer and Deputy Director,  
Pharmacy and Medicines Division

## ACCESSING MEDICINES COMPLETE

**Community Pharmacists** are able to access the resource from the SHOW Community Pharmacy website, ([www.communitypharmacy.scot.nhs.uk/](http://www.communitypharmacy.scot.nhs.uk/)); the default website which is opened when Internet Explorer is started. There is a link button on the navigation bar (at the left hand side of the web-page) which will allow access to Medicines Complete. It is, however, **only available by opening the link from the pharmacy premises.**

**NHS and GP Practice staff** are able to access the resource from links to the individual titles (such as BNF) which appear on the home page at [www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk) under 'Medicines Information Resource' in the 'What is here for me' section - you may have to scroll down to see this. You can also search for BNF or the other Medicines Complete titles in the search box at the top of the page. Click on the title of a result to connect through to Medicines Complete.

If you are connected to the NHS Network, you will see a message: 'Medicines Complete for NHS Gateways. You have been signed in automatically from IP address 194.176.105.11'

If you are not connected to the NHS Network, you will see Sign in boxes that ask for an email address and password. To sign in with a Knowledge Network Athens username, click on the link that says 'Sign in via OpenAthens'.

If you do not have a Knowledge Network Athens username, please go to <http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/login.aspx> and click on the link to apply for one as a new user.

### Available Publications

The publications available via the Medicines Complete package are;

- eMartindale;
- The Complete Drug Reference;
- Stockley's Drug Interactions;
- Stockley's Interaction Alerts;
- British National Formulary (BNF);
- BNF for Children (BNFC);
- Herbal Medicines Dietary Supplements; and
- Kucer's 'The Use of Antibiotics'

<b>BNF ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS</b>
Hospital Pharmacists ( <i>Pharmacy Technicians not eligible</i> )
Community Pharmacists ( <i>Pharmacy Technicians not eligible</i> ) made available via <b>Meds Complete package</b>
Hospital Doctors (who are not also GPs)
Hospital Locums
General Practitioners - Principal, Assistants
General Practice Locums
GP Registrars
GP Retainers
Doctors and Pharmacists holding Honorary Health Board Contracts
General Practice Pharmacological Tutors GP Retainers
MPAs and PPAs
Nurse Independent Prescribers & Prescribing AHPs ONLY
Dentists

### **Orders should be made only for those who actively prescribe**

Boards are required to confirm their order requirements bearing in mind access to the BNF online publication and Apps.

National Services Scotland: Practitioner Services Division (NSS: PSD) arrange orders following NHS Board returns.

The BNF and BNF(c) Apps are available for health and social care professionals via the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.