

Clinical monographs

Scope and purpose of this section

This following section provides an A to Z listing of some medicines commonly dispensed or supplied through community pharmacies in Australia. The listings are not comprehensive drug monographs but provide a quick reference for some individual medicines. Pharmacists are referred to other information sources such as the *Australian Medicines Handbook* (AMH) or *Australian Drug Information for the Health Care Professional* (AusDI) if a comprehensive monograph is required.

The medicine-specific information provided here pertains to:

- **Modification of oral formulations.**
- **Cautionary advisory labels** relevant to dispensed medicines. A full listing of ancillary labels and additional instructions can be found in '[Counselling and cautionary advisory labels for medicines](#)', Section A. Note that not all medicines with additional labels are included in this section.
- **Notes** include key information to assist counselling. Some information may assist particularly in the context of a medication review.
- **Special considerations** such as those relating to the elderly, changes to faeces or the urinary system, and renal and/or hepatic impairment.
- **Pregnancy and breastfeeding.** See 'Pregnancy', information below regarding medicines use associated with pregnancy and breastfeeding.
- **Common adult and paediatric dosage ranges.** These are not comprehensive but provide general guidance for medicines commonly prescribed in a community setting. Doses for chemotherapy can vary according to specialist protocols. More detailed dosage information is contained in the AusDI, the AMH or approved Product Information. See below for further information on this, including additional notes on paediatric dosing.

Additional information can also be found in the following sections:

- '[Medication review](#)', Section D.
- '[Medicines and older people](#)', Section D.
- '[Medicines and urinary incontinence](#)', Section D.
- '[Medicines causing discolouration of urine and faeces](#)', Section D.

- '[Modification of oral formulations](#)', Section A.
- '[Optimal medicine concentration ranges](#)', Section D.
- Instructions for patients on the use of specific types of formulations, e.g. ear drops, eye drops and nasal sprays—see '[General formulary](#)', Section A.
- Abbreviations used in this section are explained in '[Medical abbreviations](#)', Section A.

Currency of information

Information published here is current at the time of publication. Pharmacists will appreciate the changing nature of medicines information. Vigilance needs to be exercised in sourcing the most up to date information and using professional judgment for individual cases.

Information on new drugs, or new/revised information on existing drugs, may be available from the National Prescribing Service through its publication *Rational Assessment of Drugs and Research* (RADAR). Each edition publishes a summary of key changes including a list of new and deleted drug monographs. Current and archived editions can be found at www.npsradar.org.au.

Information on product recalls can be obtained from www.tga.gov.au/recalls or www.recalls.gov.au (follow the link to 'Therapeutic Goods').

Pregnancy

Each medicine is assigned a category of risk of use in pregnancy by the Australian Drug Evaluation Committee. For pharmaceutical products containing two or more active ingredients, the categorisation of the combination is based on the component for which the categorisation is most restrictive. The pregnancy risk categories are as follows:

- **Category A.** Drugs which have been taken by a large number of pregnant women and women of child-bearing age without any proven increase in the frequency of malformations or other direct or indirect harmful effects on the fetus having been observed.
- **Category B.** Drugs which have been taken by only a limited number of pregnant women of child-bearing age, without an increase in the frequency of malformation or other direct or indirect harmful effects on the human fetus having been