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DECEMBER 2012

VIEW IN BROWSER

Dear Colleague,

The December monthly update of BNF and BNFC has now been published. Our e-newsletter provides insight into the most significant changes made to the BNF and BNFC, including guidance on a risk of fatal hyponatraemia with hypotonic intravenous infusions. In news, we draw attention to a new MedicinesComplete search function.

BNF Team

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##### BNF online

Outside the UK, content is available via a subscription to MedicinesComplete. For more information contact [sales@medicinescomplete.com](mailto:sales@medicinescomplete.com)

#### Significant changes

This month's changes to the clinical content of these publications are described in two parts:

- BNF update should be read by all users of the BNF
- BNFC update should be read by all users of the BNF for Children

##### BNF update

##### Palliative Care Update

The BNF Palliative care section has been reorganised and now includes new tables for opioid conversions. The new 'pain management with opioids' section has been organised to provide guidance on specific routes for pain management. The 'Equivalent doses of opioid analgesics' table has been expanded to include more drugs and routes; also included is a new buprenorphine table and updated fentanyl patch conversion table. For more information see [Prescribing in palliative care](#).

### Ceftazidime Dose

Changes have been made to the dose of ceftazidime. For further information see [ceftazidime](#).

### Other changes

Review other changes in the BNF [here](#).

## BNFC update

### Risk of fatal hyponatraemia with hypotonic intravenous infusions

The use of hypotonic intravenous infusion fluids in children has been associated with fatal hyponatraemia. The guidance in BNFC section 9.2.2.1 has been updated to reflect recent recommendations from the MHRA/CHM (Drug Safety Update, October 2012). Sodium chloride 0.18% and glucose 4% intravenous infusion is now contra-indicated in children aged 16 years or less, except when initiated and maintained under expert medical supervision in paediatric specialist settings. For further information click on [Electrolytes and water](#).

### Other changes

To review changes in the BNFC, click on [changes](#).

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## News

### Improvements to MedicinesComplete interface

As part of an ongoing initiative to improve the user experience of MedicinesComplete, a new search function has been introduced. The search bar at the top of each page now features a drop-down list to the left, allowing the user to search other MedicinesComplete publications easily and from any page.



In addition, the header which contains the search bar now provides users with the option to 'attach' or 'float' the header (the latter meaning that it remains at the top of the browser window and is always visible while scrolling down a page). Users are able to select their preferred option from the settings list at the top right of the screen.

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## Drug Safety Update



*Drug Safety Update* is a monthly newsletter from the MHRA and Commission on Human Medicine. Please follow this link to review this month's [Drug Safety Update](#).

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