

**Prescribing tip for information**



**[Use of Medicines in Breastfeeding - MHRA Guidance, Information and Resources for Healthcare Professionals](#)**

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulation Agency (MHRA) has produced useful information for patients, healthcare professionals and developers of new medicines about the use of medicines in breastfeeding.<sup>1</sup> The **[guidance](#)** states:

- Breastfeeding has long-term health benefits for both the mother and her baby
- Some medicines can pass from women through breastmilk to their baby
- Only small amounts of the medicine usually reach the baby and most medicines can be used while breastfeeding
- For some medicines, this may mean the baby should be monitored more often to make sure they are not harmed by the medicine whilst they are breastfed

**Detailed information for healthcare professionals on the use of medicines during breastfeeding is available from the following websites:**

- [BNF prescribing in breastfeeding](#)
- [NHS UK Drugs in Lactation Advisory Service \(UKDILAS\)](#)

**Advice to give to patients:**

If you regularly take a medicine or have taken one during the late stages of your pregnancy, it is best to plan ahead. Talk to your doctor, nurse, or midwife about your breastfeeding options.

- Do not stop taking prescribed medicines without talking to your doctor
- If you need to take a medicine for the first time, talk to your doctor, nurse, or midwife about how you can safely breastfeed your baby
- Information about when a medicine must be avoided whilst breastfeeding, is available in the patient leaflet that accompanies a medicine

**For further information about breastfeeding and the use of medicines, patients should be signposted to the following websites:**

- [NHS - Breastfeeding and medicines](#)
- [NHS start 4 life](#)
- [The Breastfeeding Network](#)

Please report suspected side-effects from the use of medicines during breastfeeding via the **[Yellow Card Scheme - MHRA](#)**

**Reference:**

1. [Use of medicines in pregnancy and breastfeeding - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) accessed 12/04/21

To contact the Medicines Optimisation Team please phone 01772 214302