MEDICINESCOMPLETE

A step-by-step guide

This guide will take you through MedicinesComplete, a platform which grants access to the British National Formulary (BNF), BNF for Children (BNFC) and Stockley’s Drug Interactions.

Background information about MedicinesComplete is available on the Library website at: www.reading.ac.uk/library/databases

GETTING STARTED

1. Open your web browser.
2. Go to the Library’s home page at www.reading.ac.uk/library.
3. Click on the Databases a-z list link in the ‘E-resources’ section of the home page.
4. Use the A-Z list to find MedicineComplete and connect to it.
5. Enter your University username and password and click on Log in.

To access MedicinesComplete while off-campus, you will need to log in through the institutional login. Select Login, then choose Login via Shibboleth/OpenAthens. For more information about the institutional login see: www.reading.ac.uk/library/institutional-login.

SEARCHING

MedicinesComplete searches across several publications. The icon on the right-hand side will automatically be set to All Publications. You can choose the relevant icon to search within the BNF, BNFC or Stockley’s. Databases we do not currently subscribe to are marked with a padlock – these will not be included in the results. The homepage also includes Stockley’s Interactions Checker (see ‘Searching for drug interactions’) and various calculators (BMI, imperial–metric conversions etc.).

![MedicinesComplete screenshot](image)

Type in your search words. As you type, MedicinesComplete will bring up suggested terms. Hit Enter on your keyboard or click the right-hand icon to search.
SEARCH RESULTS

You will see the title of the result, the item type (e.g. a drug monograph, treatment summary or drug interaction) and the publication. To limit your results to a particular publication, click the title on the left-hand side – you can then filter the results by item type. By default, your results will only include items we have access to.

If you search for a drug, you may also see a Dosage Card. This will give you a snapshot of the information available in the BNF and BNFC.

To access an item, click on the title. You can use Subsections to jump to a specific section, or the Related content button to find similar items. You can also use the Highlight search button to highlight your search terms as they appear within the item.

To carry out another search, use the search bar at the top of the results page.

SEARCHING FOR DRUG INTERACTIONS

If you need to know how substances interact with one another, MedicinesComplete has a specialist search based on Stockley’s Interaction Alerts. To access this, click Stockley’s Interactions Checker underneath the search bar on the MedicinesComplete homepage, or at the top of the search results page.

Type in each interactant, separating your terms by pressing Enter or clicking on the automatic suggestion from MedicinesComplete. You can include interactants from drugs, along with food, drinks and smoking. When you are ready, select Search.
Your results will be colour-coded from green for no interaction to red for life-threatening interactions. There will also be a link to the relevant item in Stockley’s Drug Interactions for further information.

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**BROWSING**

To browse any of the three publications, scroll down from the MedicinesComplete homepage and click the publication you would like to browse.

You can then use the various menus to browse specific parts of the publication. The BNF (below) and BNFC are subdivided into various areas, while Stockley’s is divided into drug monographs and general considerations.
FINISHING YOUR SEARCH

To log out, click the top right-hand icon and select **Sign Out**.

If you are using an IT machine, remember to log out before leaving.