

# A ROUGH GUIDE TO MEDICINES AND INFORMATION

## Where can I find information on medicines?

Some of the useful resources available via the Canberra Health Services Library are summarised below [<https://www.library.health.act.gov.au/>]. You can register for remote access, and there are some free mobile apps.

Resources	Comments	Mobile app
Australian Medicines Handbook (AMH)	-General information on medicines -Has monographs on medicines and medicines classes -Brief summary of therapeutic choices for common conditions	
AMH Children's Dosing Companion	-Information on paediatric dosing (excludes neonates)	
Therapeutic Guidelines (eTG)	-Australian resource – reflects Australian practice -Ideal for therapeutic choices for common conditions -Antibiotic TG is useful for antibiotic selection, and dosing antibiotics in reduced renal function	✓
MIMS Online	-Australian Product Information (equivalent to the US FDA label) – may not be as useful for older drugs -Consumer Medicines Information (CMI) leaflets to give patients -Link to 'Australian Don't Rush to Crush Handbook' monographs -Additional information includes drug interaction checker, pill identifier and gluten/lactose/etc content	✓
Australian Don't Rush to Crush Handbook	-Link via MIMS Online (search the medicine, and select the 'Crush?' tab) -Provides recommendations for people with enteral feeding tubes or who have swallowing difficulties	
Australian Injectable Drug Handbook	-Information on how to prepare and administer an injectable drug -Compatibility and stability information	
Micromedex	-Detailed information on medicines, including unapproved indications/doses -Additional information includes drug interaction checker and IV compatibility -American resource – American drug names and may not reflect Australian practice	✓
The Renal Drug Database	-Dosing information for patients with impaired renal function and/or on renal replacement therapy -British resource – care with drug names and may not reflect Australian practice	
UpToDate	-Point of care decision-support tool -Good for rarer conditions which are not in the Therapeutic Guidelines -In-built drug database called Lexi-comp and includes drug interaction checker -American resource - may not reflect Australian practice	✓
BMJ Best Practice	-Point of care decision-support tool -British resource - may not reflect Australian practice	✓
Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Medicines Guide	-Brief information on safety of medicines in pregnancy and breastfeeding -Remember to switch between 'pregnancy' and 'breastfeeding' tabs when using the resource	
Natural Medicines	-Good resource for complementary and alternative medicines -Interaction checker for complementary medicines with regular medicines	
The Australian Immunisation Handbook	-Free online resource [ <a href="https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/">https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/</a> ] -Advice on use of vaccines in practice -Australian Immunisation Schedule is available	

The pharmacy subject portal via the library website [<http://tchlibrary.libguides.com/pharmacy>] links to the frequently used resources for information on medicines.