

Dear Prescribers,

Please remember when unsure about prescribing a drug (choice of agent, dose, route of administration, frequency, duration, monitoring, calculations, conversions, suitability, interactions, side effects, administration issues, risk in pregnancy, paediatric dosing, etc...), you will always have a friend in pharmacy to ask. Don't risk it! Medication errors can be fatal! The routes through which you can access pharmacy advice include:

- asking your ward pharmacy team (regular visits to most ward areas across the Trust)
- calling the hospital pharmacy department for your site
- the on-call service out of hours, so clinical advice is available 24/7, 365 days a year! Go through switchboard for the on-call pharmacist.
- a medicines information service you can request during the week for complex (non-urgent) queries.

Remember there are also various guidelines to help you. If you are unsure of where to find a guideline in regard to prescribing medication, ask pharmacy.

Antimicrobial Pharmacists can be accessed during working hours, by any grade of staff, for advice on managing infection, use of restricted antibiotics, etc. Please visit the antimicrobial section on the intranet for contact details, or go through switchboard. There are antibiotic prescribing advice posters displayed on all clinical areas (ask your ward staff if you can't see the 'blue man' poster) and a link to antibiotic guidelines on the home page of the intranet. We are always happy to consider further suggestions around how to make the information more accessible.

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