

# Vol.5 Issue 4: November 2024



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***MEDwatch** is the e-bulletin for all NHS Grampian Staff who are involved with patients and medicine management.*

*Its aim is to improve the safety of medicines by sharing learning, and encouraging adverse event reporting from all staff groups.*

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*The 9th annual #MedSafetyWeek takes place on 4th-10th November. The global social media campaign sees medicines regulatory bodies around the world promote reporting adverse drug reactions (ADRs), otherwise known as side effects, to the relevant regulatory body, which in the UK is the Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).*

*This year the theme is "**the importance of using medicines in the right way to prevent side effects, and to report side effects when they do occur**".*

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## Using Medicines in the Right Way

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*The Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) contained within the medicines pack, lists known side effects of taking that particular medicine but it also contains instructions on how the medicine should be taken. Patients should be advised to follow these instructions when taking their medicine because doing so can reduce the chance of side effects occurring or lessen the impact of a side effect. Examples include:*

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- *Taking a medicine with food to reduce the chance of nausea*
  - *Taking a medicine that causes drowsiness at night before going to sleep.*
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*Healthcare Professionals can also access other resources to find instructions on how to prescribe or administer medicines safely and appropriately:*

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- *Summary of Product Characteristics (SPCs): a description of a medicine's properties and conditions attached to its use. Written and updated by pharmaceutical companies based on their product research and knowledge. SPCs can be found on the [electronic medicines compendium](#) (emc).*
  - *[British National Formulary](#) (BNF): contains key information on the selection, prescribing, dispensing and administration of medicines.*
  - *[Medusa NHS Injectable Medicines Guide](#): provides guidance on the preparation and administration of injectable medicines. Should be used by all NHS Grampian staff when preparing and administering injectable medicines.*
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## Adverse Drug Reactions & Reporting

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*ADRs are undesirable or unintended responses to medicines which can result in patient harm. Suspected ADRs to medicines and vaccines should be reported to the MHRA via the [Yellow Card Scheme](#) to ensure safe and effective use.*

*A Yellow Card can be completed via an app, online, paper or telephone - visit [Yellow Card Centre Scotland](#) for more details.*

*All serious reactions to a medicine even if they are well-known should be reported, serious reactions are defined as:*

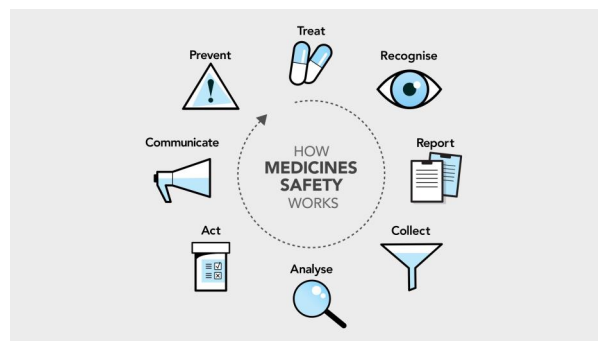
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- *Fatal*
- *Life threatening*
- *Disabling or incapacitating*

- Resulting in, or prolonging, hospitalisation
  - Congenital abnormalities
  - Those which are deemed by the reported as medically significant.
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Black Triangle Drugs are new medicines marked in the BNF with a black triangle and are generally described as being intensively monitored products by the MHRA. With new medicines the number of patients that have been exposed is generally small so relatively uncommon reactions may not have been detected. For this reason, all reactions (minor or serious) to any black triangle drug should be reported.

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## Further Training



You can access six e-learning modules created by YCC Scotland and NES on adverse drug reactions via Turas. The modules are:

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1. Basic principles of ADR
2. Categorisation
3. Drug allergy classification

4. *Diagnosis, interpretation and management*

5. *Avoiding adverse drug reactions*

6. *Pharmacovigilance*

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## Contact

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