

## BNF and BNFC

The BNF and the BNF for Children (BNFC) aim to provide sound up-to-date information for healthcare professionals in the UK on the use of medicines for adults and children from birth to adolescence. BNFC follows the same structure as the BNF but the content, and in some cases the topics covered, have been adjusted to give a paediatric focus. The online versions are updated monthly.

### How can I access BNF/BNFC?

It is available as a single free App for iOS and Android from the relevant App store (BNF BNFC from BNF Publications). You can also access online from [www.evidence.nhs.uk](http://www.evidence.nhs.uk) or [www.medicinescomplete.com](http://www.medicinescomplete.com)

### Do I need to log in?

Not on the App or via [www.evidence.nhs.uk](http://www.evidence.nhs.uk). Access via [www.medicinescomplete.com](http://www.medicinescomplete.com) from a NHS networked PC does not require a log in but if using from a personal device you will need an NHS OpenAthens log-in.

### How do I use the BNF/BNFC App?



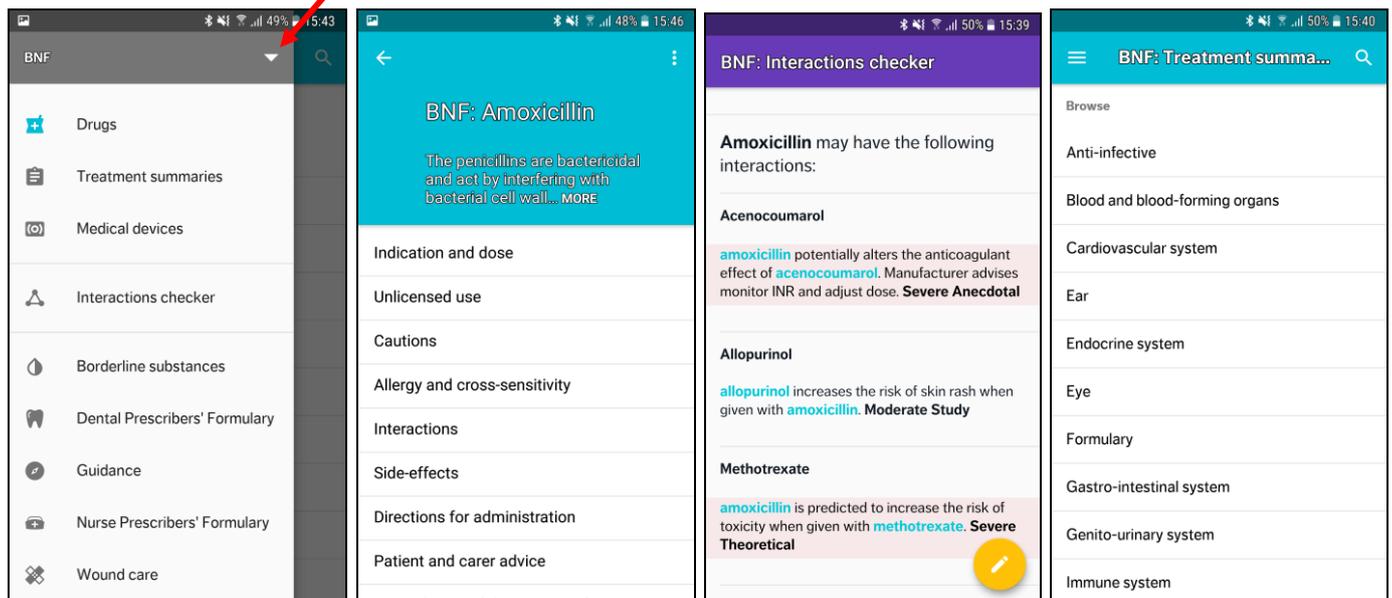
The App is quite large so you may want to download via Wi-Fi; it can then be used offline and doesn't require a log in.

### Sections of the BNF include:

**Drugs** – view an A-Z list or use the search function, **Interactions Checker**– one or more drugs can be searched, **Treatment Summaries** – how to deliver drugs (prescribing guidance), comparison of drugs or an overview of drug management for a range of conditions, **Medical Devices**, **Borderline Substances** – enteral feeding and food supplements, **Wound Care** – dressings, **Nurse Prescribers Formulary**

### Android (images from a Smartphone):

The default is BNF, to search BNFC click on the menu link (three horizontal lines) then click on the white downward triangle. From here you can choose which section you want to look at.



Menu options

View of Drug information – use arrow to go back to search, use 3 dots to open Interactions Checker

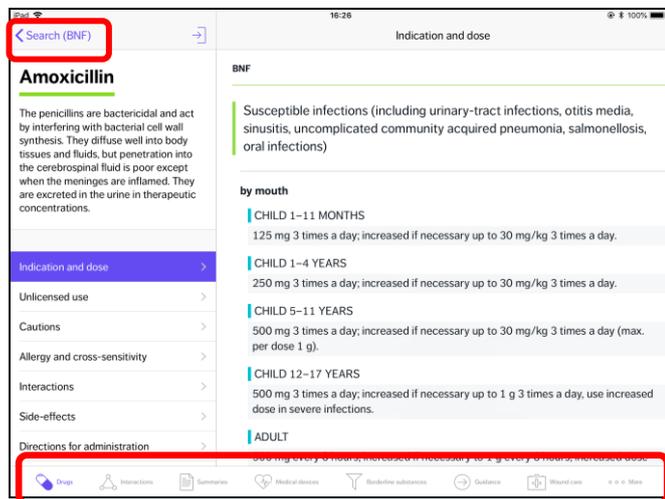
Drug interactions search – add/remove drugs using the yellow circle button

Treatment Summaries A-Z list – use the search (magnifying glass) or browse the list. **Guidance** gives information on prescribing

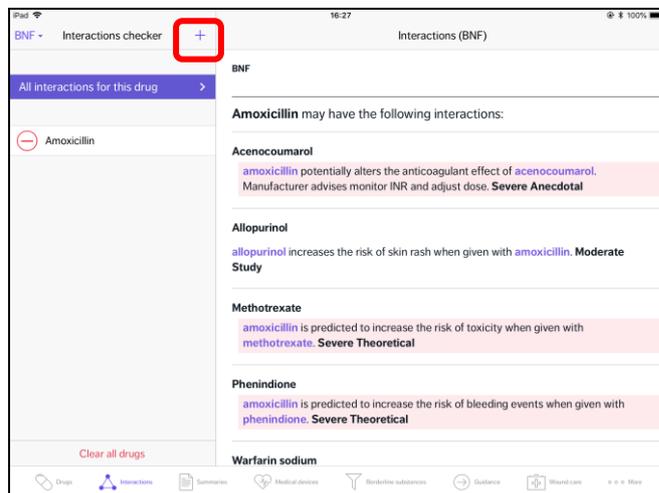
## iOS (images from an iPad):

The default is BNF, to search BNFC click on the purple BNF word at the top left of the screen and select BNFC. Choose a drug from the A-Z list or enter a drug in the search box, you will see drug choices listed as you type. When viewing a drug choose content from the left hand menu to view dosage, cautions, side-effects and other relevant information.

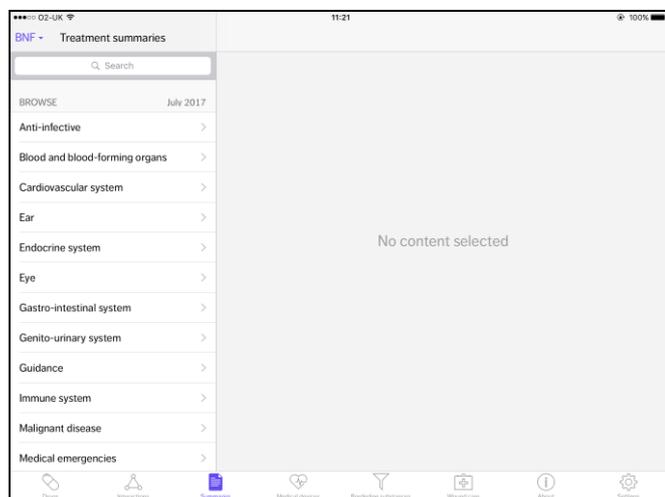
The menu along the bottom of every screen gives options to check for Interactions, Summaries, Medical Devices, view Borderline Substances, and Wound Care.



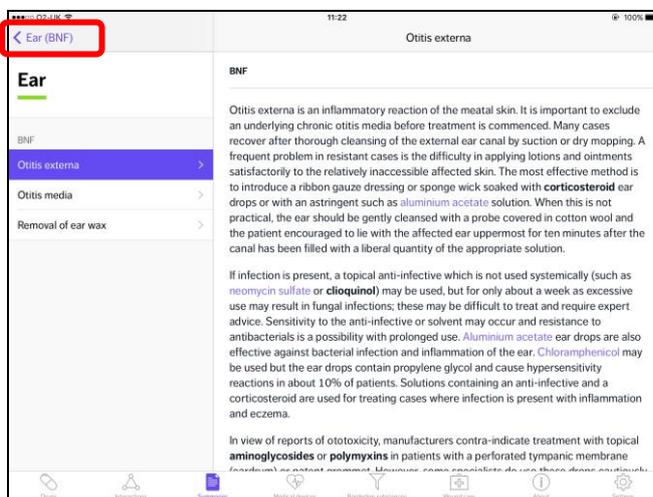
Drug search – use menu on left to view more information



Add/remove drugs using the + button



Select a topic to view more information.  
Select **Guidance** – for prescribing guidance including prescribing for specific groups of people, there is also an FAQ section on using the BNF



To go back to the previous page click on the arrow (you may also see 'Back')

**Other formats:**

[www.evidence.nhs.uk](http://www.evidence.nhs.uk): Click on BNF or BNFc.

Search: Words are auto suggested as you type, clicking on these will do a phrase search. Or you can use \* for alternative words Steroi\* retrieves steroid, steroids, steroidal. NB. English terms only.

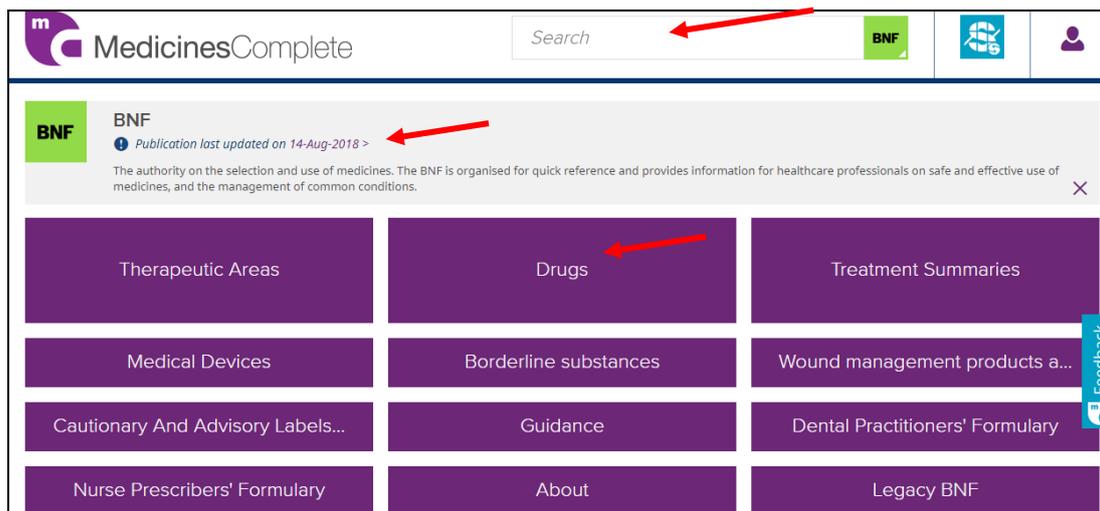
The screenshot shows the NICE BNF website interface. At the top, the NICE logo is on the left, and navigation tabs for 'Evidence search', 'BNF', 'BNFc', 'CKS', and 'Journals and databases' are on the right. A search bar is prominently displayed. Below the search bar, there are quick links for 'Drugs', 'Interactions', 'Treatment Summaries', and 'What's Changed?'. A 'Last update' box indicates the content was updated on 2 August 2018. On the left, there is a 'Browse by A-Z list' section with links for 'Drugs', 'Interactions', and 'Treatment summaries'. In the center, there is a 'Browse by type' section with categories like 'Wound management', 'Medical devices', and 'Borderline substances'. On the right, there are links for 'Dental Practitioners' Formulary', 'Nurse Prescribers' Formulary', and 'Medicines Guidance'. A callout box at the bottom right points to a link for 'Click here for a list of what's new or what's changed since the last print edition'.

[www.medicinescomplete.com](http://www.medicinescomplete.com)

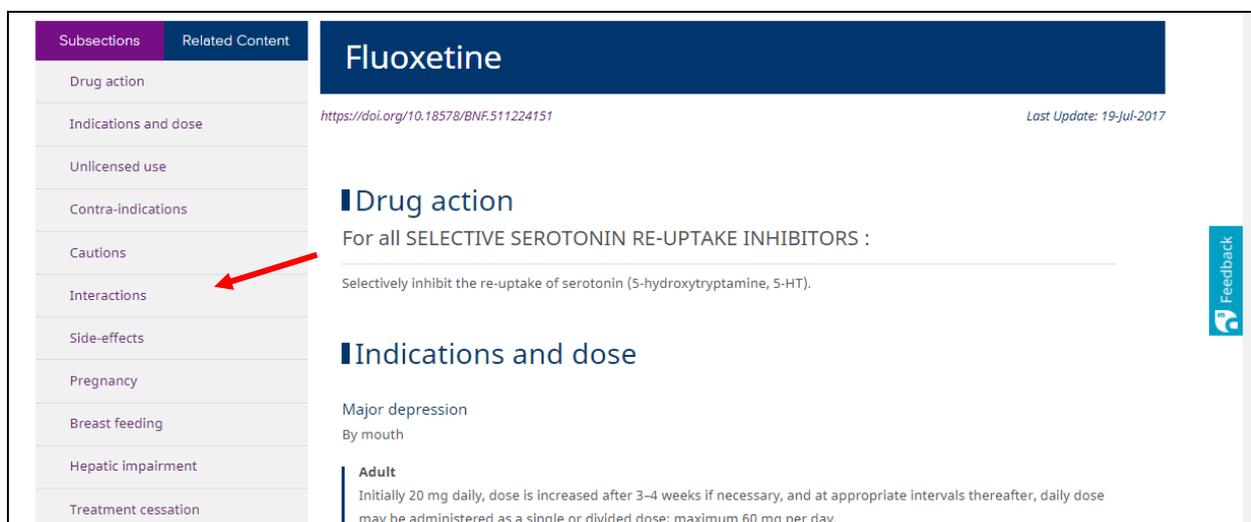
Select BNF or BNFc on the right hand side and enter search term in the box – click on a suggested term or continue typing. Alternatively click on the down arrow to view the contents page.

The screenshot shows the MedicinesComplete website. The header includes the 'MedicinesComplete' logo and navigation options: 'All Publications', 'BNF', 'BNF for Children', and 'AHFS Drug Information'. A search bar contains the text 'flu'. Below the search bar, a list of search results is shown, including 'Fludrocortisone acetate', 'Fludarabine phosphate', 'Flucytosine', 'Fluconazole', and 'Flucloxacillin', each labeled as 'Drug'. A 'See all results' link is at the bottom of the list. On the right side, there is a 'Feedback' button.

On the contents page you will see the date it was last updated at the top. There are A-Z lists or topics under each section or you can use the search box at the top of the page. Prescribing guidance is under 'Guidance'. Treatment summaries are listed by condition.



Use the menu on the left to view different aspects of the drug e.g. interactions, side effects etc.



## Can I print?

Use your browsers printing option to print individual pages.

**Important:** Under the terms of BNF and BNFC's copyright, you may print one copy of any one document/page from *BNF* or *BNF for Children* for personal use. You may not make or distribute multiple copies without prior written permission from the publisher. Not to be used for commercial/advertising purposes without permission.

Produced by:

Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust Library Services  
 Richmond Library  
 William Kerr Building  
 Northampton General Hospital  
 Northampton  
 NN1 5BD  
 Telephone: 01604 545929  
 Email: [richmondlibrary@nhft.nhs.uk](mailto:richmondlibrary@nhft.nhs.uk)  
 Internet: [www.library.northants.nhs.uk](http://www.library.northants.nhs.uk)

**Last updated August 2018**