



## **Clarity around the new editions of the BNF Publications**

UKMi, the Neonatal and Paediatrics Pharmacy Group (NPPG) and the BNF are aware of a number of discussions and email threads discussing BNF for Children 2015-2016 and BNF 70. The background to these changes and further explanatory comments are included with this letter as Appendix 1.

These constitute a range of topics, in particular:

- the identification of a small number of dose errors
- changes in the presentation of the preparations
- comments relating to the new format.

Representatives of these groups have therefore discussed these issues. To address them directly:

### **Dose errors**

The number of clinically important errors identified to date remains low and it is important to recognise that errors have been reported in prior editions of these publications. Some reports have been described as errors when in fact they are simply changes to the way content is represented.

It is key to note that as with any edition, other errors may still remain to be identified. Cross checking with the updated electronic versions should be encouraged; this is particularly true for medicines less familiar to the practitioner.

### **Presentation of preparations and new format**

Comments on format and presentation changes are welcome and will be used to enhance the display and design of future editions. Clinicians may like to access the CPPE programme developed to aid understanding of the changes to the new BNF Publications, available [here](#).

### **Reporting**

As with previous editions, [bnf.org](http://bnf.org) will be used as a central point for collating and reporting corrections to the BNF Publications, but we will be widening the reporting, to include a record of all of the feedback, including that about format changes. Three documents have been posted on [bnf.org](http://bnf.org): the corrections content for BNF for Children 2015-2016, the corrections content for BNF 70 (both shown in Appendix 2 to this letter), and also all known issues received by our groups.

We would encourage users to continue to send all feedback directly to the BNF team, using [editor@bnf.org](mailto:editor@bnf.org), in order to facilitate the ongoing updating of this document.

### **Next steps**

Given the above, print copies of the new edition of BNF for Children 2015-2016 and BNF 70 can continue to be distributed to clinical areas once the dose correction document has been attached / inserted. Corrections, as described in the Appendix to this letter and posted on [bnf.org](http://bnf.org) have been split by publication, and separated from feedback relating to clarifications and improvements, to facilitate this.

Copies already distributed should have the latest dose correction document added. However, as ever, the digital products remain the most up-to-date versions of BNF content and all of the corrections listed in Appendix 2 will have been made in the digital version by the end of Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November.

The BNF team will also continue to undertake further quality assurance work to seek to identify and correct any further errors.

### **In future**

Corrections will continue to be addressed in the usual way (using an adapted risk matrix that assesses the likelihood and severity of harm that could result from any error) with changes made to the online version at a rate determined by the risk of the error, and notifications disseminated in order to raise awareness for users of the print edition.

To ensure appropriate awareness of corrections made to BNF Publications, the current dissemination process will be improved to ensure that any high risk errors are publicised through professional networks such as NPPG and UKMi, as well as being included on [bnf.org](http://bnf.org)

We appreciate the added scrutiny of these new editions and the continued feedback which, as always, will help inform ongoing improvements to BNF products.

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UKMi Chair

Penny North-Lewis  
NPPG Chair

Karen Baxter  
BNF Director

## Appendix 1

### **Background**

Information on the reasons for the changes to the BNF publications is available in an FAQ document available at <http://www.bnf.org/using-your-new-bnf/>. In order to meet the change requirements a new content database has been created for the BNF Publications.

That entirely new database has been used to create the new print editions and the new digital version of the BNF Publications on MedicinesComplete. Ultimately it will also be used to create all versions of the BNF content.

The old database, is used to create all other versions, that is, the apps, NICE Evidence, and Legacy BNF and Legacy BNF *for Children* on MedicinesComplete.

Both databases are being updated with the ongoing clinical changes to BNF content that form the basis of the monthly updates.

The issues identified only relate to the new database. All of the reported errors have been addressed in the new database and so the BNF Publications on MedicinesComplete have been corrected.

However, as with any print edition, once published, corrections can only be addressed by notifications and dissemination of the correction information, which is what we are working on supporting currently for BNF *for Children* 2015-2016 and BNF 70.

**BNF CLARIFICATIONS AND CORRECTIONS**

**BNF *for Children* CLARIFICATIONS AND CORRECTIONS**

**These documents appear as separate attachments [here](#).**