

Reducing harm from medicines in pregnancy

- ! Carefully consider the safety of certain medicines in female patients of childbearing ages or those who are pregnant
- ! Table 1 is a list of common medicines where awareness is needed during the dispensing process, such as valproate and its association with congenital malformations and developmental issues when used in pregnancy – this list is not exhaustive and does not include unlicensed medicines



Key actions for pharmacy teams:

1. Identify medicines which can cause harm in pregnancy – for example, using alerts on the PMR system
2. Ensure female patients/carers know about the risks associated with the medicines they are taking/handling
3. Ensure female patients/carers know how to take or use medicines safely and handle the medicines with care

Table 1: High risk medicines in pregnancy

Anastrozole	Letrozole
Azathioprine	Leuprorelin acetate
Bicalutamide	Medroxyprogesterone
Ciclosporin	Mercaptopurine
Coal tar containing products	Methotrexate
Colchicine	Mifepristone
Dithranol containing products	Mycophenolate mofetil
Dutasteride	Oestrogen/progesterone containing products
Estradiol	Raloxifene
Exemestane	Tacrolimus
Finasteride	Testosterone
Ganciclovir	Thalidomide
Gonadotrophin, chorionic	Triptorelin
Goserelin	Valganciclovir
Isotretinoin	Zidovudine
Leflunomide	

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References

- Safe management of healthcare waste:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-the-safe-management-of-healthcare-waste>