



# Stockley's Drug Interactions on MedicinesComplete

## User Guide

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## 1 About Stockley's Drug Interactions

*Stockley's Drug Interactions* is a comprehensive source of information on drug interactions for the healthcare professional. It provides detailed yet concise monographs designed for quick and easy reference, covering therapeutic drugs, proprietary medicines, herbal medicines, foodstuffs, drinks, pesticides and some drugs of abuse.

The search interface allows searching and browsing from a single screen. The precision of searches for specific interactions is enhanced by language control using a thesaurus. This allows searching on international, US and British non-proprietary names, common synonyms, and proprietary names from more than 40 countries worldwide. Free text searching is also available.

The reader is assumed to possess the necessary knowledge to interpret the information that *Stockley's Drug Interactions* provides.

## 2 The interface

All the basic functions for searching and viewing are displayed on a single screen. The latest interface makes it easier to refine a search and gives more ways to move around a document.

The top bar contains:

- the title
- the access status and links
  - the link to the sign in page
  - a message to say who is signed in
  - a link to allow you to sign in with another account
  - a link to sign out
- the navigation bar with the function tabs
  - Home – to return to the *MedicinesComplete* home page click on this tab
  - Welcome – for information about subscriptions and services available from MedicinesComplete, click on this tab
  - Feedback – to send questions or comments, click on this tab
  - Help – to show help information, click on this tab
- the search box and its associated search button

**Tip:** We welcome your comments and questions on how MedicinesComplete works and we are also happy to respond to questions about our content but we regret that we are not able to answer questions or give advice on specific clinical problems or supply of medicines.

Underneath the top bar is the document area which is used to display:

- tabbed search results (see Section 3.2.1.1, p.5 and Section 3.2.2, p.8)
- the text of a document
- the Stockley home page and contents lists

### 3 Finding information

There are two ways to find information in *Stockley*:

- browse using the contents list
- search for interactions or search for words or phrases in the text

#### 3.1 Browsing using the contents list


The contents list allows you to browse for relevant documents in *Stockley's Drug Interactions*. You can use the contents list to see the contents of any chapter and select documents to read.

*Stockley* is organised into 3 sections (see Appendix B, p.15):

- **About Stockley's Interactions** includes information on the structure and best use of the publication, information about the authors and editors, the disclaimer and copyright, abbreviations list, and contact details
- **General Considerations and Mechanisms** gives a concise outline of the most common mechanisms of interactions
- **Interaction Monographs** are grouped in sections by therapeutic use or pharmacological activity

To view the contents list, select the *Stockley* link in the breadcrumb trail (see Section 4.1, p.10).

To locate documents within the publication:

- expand the contents list by clicking on any  symbol
- continue to expand the list in the same way until you find a document you need
- click on the title to display the document

or

- click on the section title to display a detailed contents list
- follow links under the "Sub-sections" heading to display documents within the chapters

Click on a  symbol to collapse the table to that level.

**Tip:** Some browsers are unable to expand the contents list. In this case, click on the chapter titles and use the list of sub-sections on the chapter page.

#### 3.2 Searching

There are two ways of searching in *Stockley*:

- search for drug interactions (see Section 3.2.1 below)
- search for a term anywhere in the text (see Section 3.2.2, p.8)

### 3.2.1 Interactions search

Use the Interactions Search function to find information on drug interactions with other drugs, foods, or alcohol. The same Search box and button are used for interactions and text searches.

- Enter one or more drug terms separated by spaces  
e.g. *warfarin aspirin*
- Click on the *Search* button
- Select the *Interactions* tab to see the results for interactions between pairs of terms entered

If you are searching for a group of drugs (e.g. opioids) the results will include information about interactions involving individual members of the group.

#### Combining terms for interactions searching

| ENTER AS                                       | EFFECT  |
|--|---|
| warfarin alcohol                               | interactions between warfarin and alcohol                               |
| alcohol warfarin antihistamines                | interactions between all pairs of warfarin, alcohol, and antihistamines |
| (alcohol warfarin) OR (alcohol antihistamines) | interactions between warfarin and alcohol or antihistamines and alcohol |
| "ace inhibitors"                               | interactions of ace inhibitors  |
| warfarin NOT alcohol                           | interactions of warfarin not involving alcohol                          |

You can search using International, US and British non-proprietary names, common synonyms, proprietary names, herbal medicines and selected food items and beverages. Terms will be mapped to a preferred term from the interactant hierarchy (see Section 3.2.1.2, p.6) for searching.

**Tip:** Search is not case sensitive so it does not matter whether you enter your search in capitals or lower case letters.

**Tip:** For most interactions searches there is no need to use a special search operator.

#### 3.2.1.1 Interactions search results

The results of your search are arranged on a set of tabs at the top of the screen. The default for *Stockley* is the **Interactions** search results tab.

For an interactions search, the system expects that the terms you enter will be drugs, herbals, foodstuffs, or other common interactants. Your search terms will be checked against standard interactants in a hierarchical list. If they match, the interactants (see Section 3.2.1.2, p.6) will be displayed in a box with the results.

If the hierarchy includes more specific terms ("narrower" terms), these will be automatically included in the search. This means that if you are searching for information on a group of drugs (for example, *opioids*) any documents concerning individual drugs from that group will be retrieved as well as more general information.

In addition, if there are interactions that are generally applicable to the class of the drug you entered, they will be included in the results under *General interactions*. So for example, if you entered a search for fentanyl, any relevant information about fentanyl itself or opioids in general will be retrieved.

The display tells you how many interactions hits have been found. If you entered one interactant, all the documents for that interactant will be retrieved. If you entered more than one interactant, the interactants will be tested in pairs and documents for interactions between those pairs will be retrieved. This is the kind of result you might see:

Results 1 - 4 of 4 documents listing interactions between any pairs of any of [interactants searched], sorted with most specific interactions first. Select any link to see the full document.

See “Messages during searching”, Section 3.2.5, p.9 for other possible responses to your search entry.

Interactions search results are divided into *Specific interactions* (involving at least one of the specific interactants you entered) and *General interactions* (involving interactions due to a class effect).

Select the documents you want to see from the list.

The search terms ('hits') are highlighted. If two or more search terms have been entered, a different colour is used to highlight different hits. If the search included terms with related narrower terms or synonyms, those terms will be highlighted in the same colour.

**Tip:** If no hits are highlighted in the document, the information you need may be in a table linked to the document. Check for [Table](#) links in the text.

### **3.2.1.2 The interactant hierarchy display**

Potential interactants have been classified in a hierarchical structure and are used as keywords in the interactions records, grouped in pairs representing the specific interaction discussed.

The interactant hierarchy is used to provide more precise retrieval of relevant documents by


- mapping synonyms to the appropriate name
- reducing 'false drops' by matching paired interactants
- allowing groups of drugs to be searched

Terms in the hierarchy are related to one another by the following relationships:

- Broader terms – more general terms which may include therapeutic, pharmacological, and chemical groups, and metabolic pathways
- Narrower terms – more specific terms, often members of a group or category
- Also matches – lead-ins, synonyms, and codes
- Related terms – other terms that do not have a strict broad/narrow/synonym relationship but which may be useful alternative search terms (e.g. foods is related to dietary supplements)

### 3.2.1.3 *Modifying an interactions search*

Once you have entered a search, you can modify it using the interactant hierarchy display (Section 3.2.1.2 above):

- to replace a search term with a broader one, expand the hierarchy display for that term by clicking on the  icon and select a broader or related term by clicking on it. The selected term will replace the original one in your search
- to replace a search term with a more specific one, expand the hierarchy display for that term and select a narrower term by clicking on it. The selected term will replace the original one in your search
- If you have been offered a term (e.g. if you forget to use quotes when searching for a phrase) click on the offered term to select it. It will then be included in your search in place of your original term

**Tip:** If the system has detected a mis-spelling you will see a message like this:

Results 1 - x of x documents listing interactions involving rifampicin (closest match for rimafpicin), sorted with most specific interactions first.

There is no need to select the corrected term as it will be automatically included in the search.



See Section 3.2.5, p.9 for other messages in response to your search entry.

### 3.2.1.4 *How to broaden a search*

If you have not retrieved the results you expect and you want to check for information for similar drugs, you can broaden your search.

Have you included too many terms in your search? Delete any unnecessary terms from the search box and re-run the search.

Is one of your terms too specific? Many drug names are members of one or more broader groups. Use the interactant hierarchy display to select a broader term.

- Click the  symbol next to a term to display its relationships.
- Click the  symbol next to 'Broader terms' and 'Related terms' (if available) to expand the display.
- Click on an appropriate broader or related term. The term selected will replace the original term in the search.
- Search will be re-run automatically.
- Repeat this process to broaden the terms further if required.



**Tip:** If a group term is selected both that term and all of its related narrower terms will be included in the search. The highlighting colour shows which family a hit belongs to.

### 3.2.1.5 *How to narrow a search*

If you have retrieved a lot of documents or you cannot see the specific information you need, you can narrow your search.

Check that you have included all the terms you need to specify your query. Try typing more terms into the search box separated by spaces or combining your search term with others using logical operators (see Section 3.2.3, p.9).

Have you used search terms that are specific enough? Use the thesaurus display to select a narrower (more specific) term.

- Click the  symbol next to a term to display its relationships.
- Click the  symbol next to 'Narrower terms' (if available) to expand the display.
- Click on an appropriate narrower term. The term selected will replace the original term in the search.
- Search will be re-run automatically.
- Repeat this process to narrow the terms further if required.

### 3.2.2 Entering a text search

Use the text search function to find a specific word or phrase anywhere in the text. The same Search box and button are used for text and interactions searches.

The system uses spell checking and, for drug names, synonym control to help retrieve relevant documents.

Enter the term you wish to search for in the **search box** on the top bar as

- a single word  
e.g. *arrow*
- a phrase enclosed in double quotes  
e.g. *"aplastic anaemia"*
- several terms combined with **logical operators** (see Section 3.2.3, p.9)
- a word **truncated** using the wildcard characters \* or ? (see Section 3.2.4, p.9)

**Tip:** Search is not case sensitive so it does not matter whether you enter your search in capitals or lower case letters.

**Tip:** Any synonyms for drug names in your search will be highlighted in the documents retrieved.

**Tip:** *Stockley* uses International Non-proprietary Names for conventional drugs and British English spelling for its editorial content.

Click on the *Search* button or hit *Enter* to perform the search. Select the **Full text** results tab to see the results of the search.

To see if there is more information in other publications on *MedicinesComplete*, select the **All publications** tab. The **All Publications** tab tells you whether other publications have any results for your text search. Click on a publication title to see the complete set of results for that publication. If there are results in a publication that you do not subscribe to, only the first 5 results will be listed, and you will not be able to access the full records.

**Tip:** Once you have selected a tab, it will stay active for subsequent searches in the same session until you select another. Once you leave the search page it will revert to the default results tab at the next search session.

### 3.2.3 Combining terms

You can refine your text search by combining search terms using 'logical operators'.

#### Combining terms for text searching

| ENTER AS                           | EFFECT  |
|------------------------------------|---|
| heart OR failure                   | documents containing either of the words                                |
| heart failure                      | documents containing both the words                                     |
| (liver failure) OR (heart failure) | documents containing liver and/or heart which must also contain failure |
| "heart failure"                    | documents containing both words as a phrase                             |
| alcohol NOT wines                  | documents containing alcohol but not wines                              |

### 3.2.4 Truncation

You can search for several related words in one go by substituting characters in your term with wildcard characters.

There are 2 wildcard characters:

- \* will match any number of characters
- ? will match a single character

To search for any words beginning with a particular stem, add the wildcard character \* at the end.

*Chemother\** to match *chemotherapy* and *chemotherapeutic*

You can use the wildcard in the middle to stand for one or more characters.

*estr\*ol* to match *estriol* and *estradiol*

You can replace a single character in the search term by using the wildcard character ?

*wom?n* to match *woman* and *women*

*Parkinson?* to match *Parkinsons* but not *Parkinsonian*

**Tip:** If you search using a stem with fewer than 3 characters or the truncated term matches more than 10 terms, you will be prompted to lengthen the stem.

### 3.2.5 Messages during searching

Messages may appear on the results display to explain what has happened.

These are the messages you might see:

- during text searches, if there is a term that might be relevant (often if you forget to use quotes when searching for a phrase): "Were you looking for..." and a suggested term (click on the term to accept it)
- if a mis-spelling is suspected: "Results 1 - x of x documents matching (or listing interactions involving) acetaminophen (closest match for acetaminaphen)"

When you enter an *interactions search*, the system tries to match your search terms to interactants from the interactants hierarchy (see Section 3.2.1.2 p.6).

- If there is an exact match: interactants hierarchy is displayed.
- If your search term is a synonym for an interactant: "Term (used for synonym)" e.g. paracetamol (used for acetaminophen) appears in the interactants hierarchy display
- If there is no match: "The term has not been recognised as an interactant. Try another tab or enter a different search."
- If there are no interactions for your term: "There are no documents listing interactions involving ... Try another tab or enter a different search."

## 4 Navigation

Once you have found a document, there is a range of navigation tools to link to related documents within the publication you are using, within *MedicinesComplete*, and to other resources.

### 4.1 Moving around a document

- Use the *arrow* keys or *Page Up* and *Page Down* keys on your keyboard.
- Use the scroll bar (or wheel on your mouse, if available).
- Use the hyperlinks at the top of the document to move to the beginning of a sub-section.
- Where available, use the Contents bar at the side of the screen to jump to a main sub-section from anywhere in the document. Click on the contents bar to expand the list, and click on *Close* to shrink the bar again.

Active links (sometimes referred to as '*hyperlinks*') are indicated by [underlined text](#) .

- Position the cursor over a link text (the cursor will usually change to a pointing hand),
- click on the link,
- the linked document will be displayed.

**Tip:** To return to a previous screen, use the 'Back' button on your browser toolbar.

At the top and bottom of the document are links to the previous and next document in the hierarchy

< [Previous page](#) [Next page](#) >

Leave the cursor over the links at the top for a moment to see the title of the document.

If the screen contains a document displayed as the result of a text search, the links in the top line will change to:

< [Previous result](#) [Next result](#) >

and in addition, these links:

[Search Results](#) | [Related Articles](#) | [Hide Highlighting](#)

- use [Search Results](#) to return to your list of search results
- use [Related Articles](#) to see whether there are articles on the same topic in other publications on *MedicinesComplete*

- use [Hide Highlighting](#) to see the document without highlighting when you have finished with the search – the link will change to [Show Highlighting](#) so that you can turn the highlighting for your search terms back on

The next line shows the location of the document within the hierarchy. This is known as a *'breadcrumb trail'*.

[Home](#) > [Stockley's Drug Interactions](#) > [Contents](#) > [Interaction monographs](#) > [Anticoagulants](#)

Each entry in the breadcrumb trail acts as a link to a more general document, sub-section, or contents list.

- To display the linked document, click on the [underlined text](#). The linked document or menu will be displayed.
- To return to the original document, click on the browser *Back* button.

**Tip:** The [Next page](#) link is also available at the bottom of the screen.

**Tip:** The first link in the breadcrumb trail is always [Home](#) and will take you to the *MedicinesComplete* home page or the CD-ROM home page.

#### 4.1.1 Tables and figures and external sources

Tables and figures can be displayed by clicking on the hyperlinks in the text. The table or figure will be displayed in the current browser window. Use the Back button on your browser to return to the original document.

Hyperlinks to external documents available via the Internet are included. If you have web access, external documents can be retrieved by clicking on the link in the same way as internal links.

**Tip:** To see a table or figure at the same time as the text it refers to, click the right mouse button and select "Open in New Window" or the equivalent depending on your browser.

#### 4.2 Reference citation lists

References cited in monographs are linked by superscript numbers to the citations listed at the end of each record. These superscript numbers act as links to the corresponding citation.

To check an individual citation:

- Move the cursor over the superscript reference number in the text and a pop-up box will be displayed with up to 3 citations listed in full

or

- Click on the superscript number to scroll to the appropriate place in the list of citations at the end of the record

or

- Scroll down to the citations listed at the end of the record

**Tip:** Consult the list at the end of the record to view citations if a range of more than 3 is cited in the text.

## 5 How to print a document

**Important:** *Under the terms of our copyright, you may print one copy of any document for personal use. You may not make or distribute multiple copies without prior written permission from the publisher.*

Print documents using your browser's print function. The exact procedure will depend on the browser you use. For example, to print a complete document with Microsoft Internet Explorer:

- select the document you wish to print,
- on the toolbar, click *File*,
- select *Print* from the dropdown menu,
- in the *Page Range* box, select *All* for the complete document or a page range,
- in the *Copies* box, specify the number of copies,
- click *OK*

**Tip:** Printing a document as described above will print the complete document and not just the part visible in the document display area.

**Tip:** Some documents are very long. Print Preview may not tell you how many pages you will print.

**Tip:** We recommend that you print a complete document. If you select part of a document by highlighting it, the printout may lose its formatting and be difficult to read.

**Tip:** If the citation is not automatically included, remember to write the source on the copy using the recommended style for citing the electronic *Stockley* (see below).

### 5.1 How to cite electronic *Stockley*

When you cite *Stockley's Drug Interactions*, we recommend the following styles:

- for the CD-ROM:  
Baxter K (ed), *Stockley's Drug Interactions* 9. [CD-ROM] London: Pharmaceutical Press, 2010.
- for the online version:  
Baxter K (ed), *Stockley's Drug Interactions*. [online] London: Pharmaceutical Press <<http://www.medicinescomplete.com/>> (Accessed on *[date]*).
- for individual documents add the title of the document and [Updated on *[date]*] to the front of the appropriate citation.

This citation should always be added to copies of documents printed from *Stockley*.

## 6 Getting more help

Comprehensive help is available online. Click the *Help* button on the top bar to open the help pages. The first page displayed will be relevant to the part of the interface you are currently using. Click on the first link in the breadcrumb trail at the top of the page to see the complete contents list.

For more information about *Stockley's Drug Interactions*, visit our website at [www.pharmpress.com/Stockley](http://www.pharmpress.com/Stockley)

**For problems with searching or any questions about the data:**

**Tel:** +44 (0)20 7572 2266

**E-mail:** [support@medicinescomplete.com](mailto:support@medicinescomplete.com)

**For technical support:**

MedicinesComplete support team

**Tel:** +44 (0)20 7572 2266

**Fax:** +44 (0)20 7572 2509

**E-mail:** [support@medicinescomplete.com](mailto:support@medicinescomplete.com)

## Appendix A: Examples of search strategies

Although you can search for any word in *Stockley's Drug Interactions*, commonly you will be searching for drug interactions with other drugs or groups of drugs, herbal medicines, or foodstuffs.

| Query   | Search  | Results tab  |
|---|---|--|
| How can I find all the interactions listed for a specific drug?       | drug name   | select Interactions tab; documents on any interactions involving the drug are listed   |
| How do I find specific interactions between two drugs?                | drug names separated by spaces  | select Interactions tab; documents on interactions between pairs of drugs are listed   |
| Can I search for interactions between drugs and herbals or foods too? | include herbals or foodstuffs in the search   | select Interactions tab; herbs and foodstuffs are treated like other interactants  |
| How do I do a free text search?                                       | enter your search using usual text search syntax <sup>1</sup>                             | select Full text tab   |
| How do I find the 'best' search term for a drug?                      | enter a drug name, synonym, code, or trace name   | select Interactions tab; the system will map your term to the interactants hierarchy so that all relevant results will be found  |
| What happens if I search more than two drugs?                         | enter drug names separated by spaces  | select Interactions tab; the drugs will be tested in pairs and results displayed   |
| What happens if I mix drug terms and other terms?                     | drug names and other terms  | select Interactions tab; terms not recognised as interactants will be ignored<br>select Full text tab; documents with any of your terms (including drug names) will be retrieved |
| How do I search on a group of drugs?                                  | many group and drug classes are included in the interactants hierarchy and are searchable | select Interactions tab; the interactants hierarchy will tell you if your group term has been recognised   |

### Footnotes:

1. For the correct way to format a search and combine terms, see Section 3.2.2, p.8
2. "Drug name" could be an approved name (including language variants), synonym, herbal drug, or manufacturer's code.

## Appendix B: Structure of Stockley

The information on drug interactions in *Stockley's Drug Interactions* is presented in fully referenced monographs covering individual or closely-related interactions, grouped by therapeutic use or pharmacological activity. The general considerations and mechanisms are discussed in a separate section.

### General considerations and mechanisms

This general section contains discussions on:

- what is a drug interaction?
- what is the incidence of drug interactions?
- how seriously should interactions be regarded and handled?
- mechanisms of drug interactions
- drug-herb interactions
- drug-food interactions

### Arrangement of interaction monographs

The interaction monographs are grouped by therapeutic use or pharmacological activity. Generally monographs are grouped according to the drugs affected by the interaction.

These sections typically contain two types of document:

- an introduction giving an overview of the drugs that are the main focus of the section
- the interaction monographs

### Introductions to sections

The interaction monographs are grouped by therapeutic use or pharmacological activity. The Introduction to each section gives an overview of the drugs that are the main focus of the section.

Introductions often include tables of the drugs included in the chapter and, where appropriate, further classification.

### Interaction monographs

Interaction monographs contain the monograph title, a summary, the detailed discussion of the interaction(s), and the list of references cited in the text.

The monograph is often divided into sub-sections. These typically include:

- Clinical evidence - detailing one, two or more illustrative examples of the interaction, followed by other supportive clinical evidence
- Mechanism
- Importance and management - a short discussion designed to aid rapid clinical decision making

References cited in abstracts or reviews are linked by superscript numbers to the citations listed at the end of each record. These superscript numbers act as links to the corresponding citation.

Appropriate links to other associated documents and to tables or figures are included.

The *Reviewed on* date is the date on which the monograph was fully re-evaluated and updated as necessary. All monographs are routinely re-evaluated and revalidated on a rolling cycle.

The *Updated on* date is the date on which the monograph was last modified outside the full re-evaluation cycle.

**Tip:** A more detailed description of the structure and compilation of *Stockley* can be found in the “About Stockley’s Interactions” section under “Before using the publication...”, accessed from the contents list.