Martindale: The Complete Drug Reference on MedicinesComplete

User Guide
# Martindale: The Complete Drug Reference on MedicinesComplete

## User Guide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>About Martindale</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The interface</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>The top bar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>The document area</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Finding information</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>Browsing using the contents list</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Entering a search</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.1</td>
<td>Combining terms</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.2</td>
<td>Truncation</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Entering a text search</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>Advanced searching</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>Interactions search</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5.1</td>
<td>Thesaurus</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5.1.1</td>
<td>Thesaurus relationships</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5.2</td>
<td>Modifying an interactions search</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5.3</td>
<td>How to broaden or narrow a search</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5.3.1</td>
<td>How to broaden a search</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5.3.2</td>
<td>How to narrow a search</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5.4</td>
<td>Messages during searching</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>How to display the documents retrieved by a search</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6.1</td>
<td>Interactions search results</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Navigation</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>How to move around a document</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>How to use links</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>How to move around Martindale</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>Links between documents within Martindale</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>Links to external sources</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>Reference citation lists</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>How to print a document</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>Printing documents using the print button</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>Print documents using your browser's print function</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>How to cite electronic Martindale</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Getting more help</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix A</td>
<td>Examples of searches</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix B</td>
<td>Troubleshooting</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix C</td>
<td>Structure of Martindale</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug monographs and treatment summaries</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparations records</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturers records</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1 About Martindale

*Martindale* is a comprehensive source of information on drugs and other substances of interest to pharmacists and medical practitioners throughout the world. It includes human and veterinary drugs (including investigational drugs and herbals), diagnostic agents, nutritional agents, pharmaceutical excipients, drugs of abuse and recreational drugs, pesticides, and toxic substances.

*Martindale* on MedicinesComplete is an electronic version of Martindale: The Complete Drug Reference, developed and produced by the Pharmaceutical Press.

It contains all the information in the printed version plus some additional information about drugs and proprietary preparations no longer used in clinical practice.

Links have been created between related records throughout the knowledge base to aid navigation, and in addition, for those with web access, links to external sources have been added. These include links to Medline abstracts via PubMed and some manufacturers’ websites.

2 The interface

All the basic functions for searching and viewing are displayed on a single screen.

The screen is divided into 2 main parts:

- the top bar
- the document area

2.1 The top bar

The top bar contains:

- the title
- the navigation bar with the function buttons:
  - Home – to return to the MedicinesComplete home page click on this button
  - Contents – to show the table of contents, click on this button
  - Advanced search – to go to the advanced search screen to limit your search to sections, click on this button
  - Print – to print the current page, click on this button
  - Help – to show help information, click on this button
- the search box and its associated buttons:
  - Search – for free text searches
  - Interactions – for searches for drug-drug, drug-food, and drug-herb interactions

Tip: Click on the *Martindale* icon to return to the *Martindale* home page.

2.2 The document area

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

- the table of contents
To move up or down

- use the scroll bar on the right of the window
- use the 'Page Up' or 'Page Down' keys
- use the arrow keys

3 Finding information

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

- browse using the contents list
- search for a term

3.1 Browsing using the contents list

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

*Martindale* is organised into 4 sections (see Appendix C, p.16):

- The **Introduction** includes information on the structure and best use of the publication, disclaimer and copyright, abbreviations list, and contact details.
- **Drugs and Ancillary Substances** includes monographs grouped by therapeutic use or pharmacological activity plus the Archive of Deleted Monographs and the Supplementary Drugs and Other Substances section.
- **Preparations** are listed alphabetically, by country, and by manufacturer.
- **Manufacturers** are listed alphabetically and by country.

The table of contents lists these 4 plus a further route into the drug monographs:

- **ATC codes** are listed by body system and therapeutic category.

The table of contents appears in the main document area.

To view the contents list, click on the **Contents** button on the top bar or click on the link in the breadcrumb trail (see Section 4.1).

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 Entering a search

There are three ways of searching in *Martindale*:
- search for a term anywhere in the text (see Section 3.3 below)
- search for a term in a specific section (see Section 3.4 below)
- search for drug interactions (see Section 3.5 below)

Examples of searches can be found in the online Help (see Appendix A, p.15)

#### 3.2.1 Combining terms

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

**Combining terms for text searching**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENTER AS</th>
<th>EFFECT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>heart failure</td>
<td>documents containing either (or both) of the words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+heart +failure</td>
<td>documents containing both the words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>liver heart +failure</td>
<td>documents containing liver and/or heart which must also contain failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;heart failure&quot;</td>
<td>documents containing both words as a phrase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>alcohol –wines</td>
<td>documents containing alcohol but not wines</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Combining terms for interactions searching**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENTER AS</th>
<th>EFFECT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>warfarin alcohol</td>
<td>interactions between warfarin and alcohol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>alcohol warfarin antihistamines</td>
<td>interactions between all pairs of warfarin, alcohol, and antihistamines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+warfarin +alcohol</td>
<td>interactions between warfarin and alcohol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+alcohol warfarin antihistamines</td>
<td>interactions between warfarin and alcohol or antihistamines and alcohol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;ace inhibitors&quot;</td>
<td>interactions of ace inhibitors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>warfarin –alcohol</td>
<td>interactions of warfarin not involving alcohol</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 3.2.2 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 Parksons 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.

3.3 Entering a text search

Use the Search function to find a specific word or phrase anywhere in the text.

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 3.2.1 above)

- a word truncated using the wildcard characters * or ? (see Section 3.2.2 above)

Click on the Search button or hit Enter to perform a text search.

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

Tip: Synonyms for your search term will be highlighted in the documents retrieved.

Tip: Martindale uses International Non-proprietary Names for titles and British English spelling for its editorial content.

3.4 Advanced searching

Use the Advanced Search function to restrict a text search to specified sections. This can be useful if you need information on a specific aspect of drug use (for example if you want to search for a clinical condition occurring as an adverse effect and you are not interested in its treatment). Some examples of typical uses of advanced search are given in the online Help - see Appendix A on page 15.

- Click on the Advanced Search button to open the Advanced search page.

- Enter your search in the search box.
• Click in the appropriate box(es) under Search only in sections:
• Click on the Search button or hit Enter.

You can select several boxes in Search only in sections: and the search will retrieve any of those sections containing the search term.

Tip: You may not always get the result you expect when searching within sections because sections are sometimes combined (for example Adverse Effects and Precautions). In addition, searching within sections will miss information in short monographs and in sections not listed (e.g. Antimicrobial Action or Dependence).

3.5 Interactions search

Use the Interactions Search function to find information on drug interactions with other drugs, foods, or alcohol.

• Enter one or more drug terms separated by spaces
e.g. warfarin aspirin
• Click on the Interactions button to perform a search for interactions between pairs of terms entered

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. See 3.2.1 above for information on the use of operators in interactions searches.

Tip: 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 thesaurus (see below) for searching.

3.5.1 Thesaurus

The thesaurus contains potential interactants in a hierarchical structure.
The interactants are used as keywords in the interactions records.
The thesaurus 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

The thesaurus entry for individual terms is displayed as the result of a search.

Tip: Thesaurus displays can also be used to broaden or narrow a search – see 3.5.3 below.
Tip: Searches can be modified using the thesaurus display in the search results – see 3.5.2 below.

3.5.1.1 Thesaurus relationships

Terms in the thesaurus are related to one another by the following relationships:
• Broader terms – more general terms which may include therapeutic, pharmacological, chemical groups, and metabolic pathways
• Narrower terms – more specific terms, often members of a group or category
• Also matches – 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)

3.5.2 Modifying an interactions search

The terms used in a search are displayed at the top of the search results display.

Once you have entered a search, you can modify it using the thesaurus display (Section 3.5.1 above):

• to replace a search term with a broader one, expand the thesaurus display for that term by clicking on icons 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 thesaurus 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:
Find interactions of rifampicin (closest match for rimafpicin)

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

See Section 3.5.4 below for other messages in response to your search entry.

3.5.3 How to broaden or narrow a search

If you have not retrieved the information you expected, you may need to broaden your search.

If you have retrieved a lot of documents, you may need to narrow your search.

3.5.3.1 How to broaden a search

If you have not retrieved the information you expected, you may need to broaden your search.

Check that you need all the terms in the 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 thesaurus 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.

3.5.3.2 How to narrow a search

If you have retrieved a lot of documents, you may need to narrow your search.

Check that you have included all the terms you need to specify your query. Try combining your search term with others using logical operators (see Section 3.2.1 above) or simply type more terms into the search box separated by spaces.

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.

3.5.4 Messages during searching

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

These are the messages you might see:

• 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: "Find interactions/documents of acetaminophen (closest match for acetaminaphen)

When you enter an interactions search, the system tries to match your search terms to interactants from the thesaurus (see Section 3.5.1 above).

• If there is an exact match: thesaurus entry is displayed.
• If your search term is a synonym to a thesaurus term: "Term (used for synonym)"
  e.g. paracetamol (used for acetaminophen)
• If there is no match: "The term has not been recognised as an interactant. Use text search to find this term."
• If there are no interactions for your term: "There are no documents listing such interactions." (or "There are no documents listing interactions involving ...") "Try searching for a related term, perform a text search or use the table of contents."
3.6 How to display the documents retrieved by a search

The results of a search will be displayed when you click the Search or Interactions button after entering search terms.

The way the results are displayed will depend on whether you have done a text search or an interactions search (see Section 3.2, p.5).

Select the documents you want to see from the list and click on the title to display.

The search terms ('hits'), including any synonyms matched, are highlighted in the document. If two or more search terms have been entered, a different colour is used to highlight different hits or families of hits.

To return to the list of search results and select a different document use the Return to search link in the breadcrumb trail or the Back button on the browser.

3.6.1 Interactions search results

The system will firstly check your search terms to see whether they can be matched to listed interactants. If they can, the thesaurus entry (see Section 3.5.1 above p.7) will be displayed for each term matched.

If your search term is mapped to the appropriate preferred term from the thesaurus the display looks like this:

    furosemide (used for frusemide)

where 'frusemide' was the term you entered and 'furosemide' is the preferred term.

See “Messages during searching”, Section 3.5.4 above for other possible responses to your search entry.

If the thesaurus term has related 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, antihypertensives) any documents concerning individual drugs from that group will be retrieved as well as more general information.

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:

    Interactions search: there are 3 documents listing interactions between pairs of interactants searched.

Sections of monographs containing information about the interaction are listed with the breadcrumb trail which gives their location in the hierarchy.

Select the documents you want to see from the list and click on the title to display it.

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: The search terms will be highlighted throughout the document and not just in the section that is relevant to the interaction you are looking for. Scroll down until you see at least 2 terms highlighted in the same sub-section.
4 Navigation

4.1 How to move around a document

- Click anywhere in the document display to activate that part of the screen.
- 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.

4.2 How to use links

Active links (sometimes referred to as *hyperlinks*) are indicated by underlined text or the link symbol.

- Position the cursor over a link symbol or 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.

4.3 How to move around *Martindale*

A set of links is provided at the top of each screen to help you navigate around.

The top line links to the previous and next document in the hierarchy

< previous | next >

Leave the cursor over the link for a moment to see the title of the document.

If the screen contains a document displayed as the result of a search, the top line will also show the links:

- Return to search and Hide highlighting

- Use Return to search to return to your list of search results.
- Use Hide highlighting to see the document without highlighting when you have finished with the search.

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

Home > Martindale: The Complete Drug Reference > Contents > Preparations > By Country

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

**Tip:** The Next link is also available at the bottom of the screen.

**Tip:** Once you choose Hide highlighting, both that link and the Return to search link will disappear. If you then wish to check the results of your last search, use the Back button on your browser to return to the search results list. Selecting a document will highlight the search terms as usual.
4.4 Links between documents within Martindale

Related information in different parts of Martindale is linked using hyperlinks (see Section 4.2 above for more on using links).

More general documents in the hierarchy can be reached by using the links at the top of the screen (the ‘breadcrumb trail’).

- To display the linked document, click on the link icon or underlined text. The linked document will be displayed.
- To return to the original document, click on the browser Back button.

Some examples of links include those between

- drug monographs and treatment reviews
- drug monographs and preparations documents
- drug monographs with similar properties
- preparations documents and manufacturers’ documents
- active ingredients in preparations records and their drug monographs

4.5 Links to external sources

Hyperlinks are included to external documents available via the Internet.

If you have web access, external documents can be retrieved by clicking on the link in the same way as internal links (see Section 4.2 above for more on using links).

External documents will appear in a separate browser window. To return to Martindale close or minimise the new window.

The main links to external sources currently available are

- links from reference citations to Medline records (from PubMed)
- links from citations to guidelines to the original source (where available online)
- links from manufacturers’ records to their websites (on-line information)
- links from manufacturers' records to their email address (in this case, your e-mail authoring software will be launched and the address inserted, ready for your message)

4.6 Reference citation lists

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.

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.

Tip: Citations listed at the end of individual records include a link to a Medline abstract in PubMed where possible.

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.

5.1 Printing documents using the print button

In the navigation bar at the top of each page is a Print button. Clicking this button will print the document display area of the current page.

5.2 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 Martindale (see below).

5.3 How to cite electronic Martindale

When you cite Martindale, we recommend the following style:

6 Getting more help

Comprehensive context-sensitive 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 problems with searching or any questions about the data:

Tel: +44 (0)20 7572 2494

E-mail: martindale@rpsgb.org.uk

For technical support:

Web: http://www.support.pharmpress.com/

Brook House Ltd

Tel: +44 (0)1988 600 789

Fax: +44 (0)1988 600 755

E-mail: martindale@brookhouse.co.uk
Appendix A: Examples of searches

Although you can search for any word in Martindale, commonly you will be searching for drug names, proprietary names, diseases, symptoms, countries, or manufacturers, and may be limiting the search to specific types of information, such as precautions.

The online Help gives some examples of how to find answers to common questions:

- How to identify a drug
- How to find the main entry for a drug
- How to identify a proprietary preparation
- How to find whether a specified preparation has been marketed in a specific country
- How to find preparations of a specific drug in a specific country
- How to find preparations for a specified drug
- How to find preparations from a specified manufacturer
- How to find information about the properties of a drug
- How to find information on the treatment of a disease
- How to find information on adverse effects or precautions
- How to find manufacturers' addresses and other contact details

Tip: Searching on drug names. It does not matter whether the name you entered is an approved name, a synonym, a manufacturer's code, or a proprietary name. You will retrieve either the full drug monograph or the preparation record. Preparations records include links from the ingredients to the full drug monograph(s).

Appendix B: Troubleshooting

The online Help gives solutions to some typical problems:

- How can I locate the information I need in the document I have found?
- Which chapter/monograph/section am I in?
- Why can't I find any proprietary preparations for a drug?
- Why doesn't my search retrieve any relevant documents?
- How can I find more details about a preparation?
- I have too many hits from my search
- Why don't I get the result I expect when specifying sections in advanced search?
Appendix C: Structure of Martindale

There are three main types of information in Martindale:

- monographs on drugs and ancillary substances and treatment summaries
- proprietary and non-proprietary preparations
- manufacturers' names and contact details

Drug monographs and treatment summaries

Monographs for drugs with similar actions or uses are grouped together (corresponding to the chapters in the printed version). General information is provided about the properties of each group or class of drugs, together with treatment summaries describing the role of drugs in the treatment of a range of diseases. 'Supplementary Drugs and Other Substances' contains monographs for drugs that are not easily classified and an 'Archive of Deleted Monographs' contains abbreviated monographs for substances that are no longer in use nor of general interest. Archived monographs are not routinely revised and updated and are retained for historical interest.

Drug monographs are divided into sub-sections covering different aspects of the properties and actions of the substance. These would typically include Nomenclature, Adverse Effects, Treatment of Adverse Effects, Precautions, Interactions, Pharmacokinetics, and Uses and Administration (in that order). Each section usually starts with a summary of the relevant information for that section followed by referenced reviews and abstracts that expand on or add to this information. Lists of single and multi-ingredient proprietary and non-proprietary preparations are given at the end of each monograph and, in the electronic version, these are linked to the preparations records.

Links to the sub-sections appear at the top of the monograph to aid navigation.

Date of monograph revision appears in monograph records in the Drugs and Ancillary substances section. Dates represent the dates at which information in that record has been re-validated plus the date of the most recent modification.

Preparations records

Preparations are listed alphabetically, by country, and by manufacturer. Each preparation document gives details of the manufacturer, country, active ingredients, and main indications.

Almost all the ingredients are described in the drug monographs, and there are links from the ingredients to the appropriate monographs. There are also links to the manufacturers contact details.

Manufacturers records

Manufacturers' records are listed alphabetically and by country and give details of the full name, address, and (where available) telephone and fax numbers, e-mail address, and website in each country. Clicking on the e-mail address will launch your local e-mail editor ready for your message.

Tip: A more detailed description of the structure and compilation of Martindale can be found in the Introduction section under "How the information is organised" and “Philosophy and methodology”, accessed from the contents list.