

# Changes to Approved Names

European law requires use of the Recommended International Nonproprietary Name (rINN) for medicinal substances. In most cases the British Approved Name (BAN) and rINN were identical. Where the two differed, the BAN was modified to accord with the rINN with the important exceptions of adrenaline and noradrenaline.

**ADRENALINE AND NORADRENALINE.** Adrenaline and noradrenaline are the terms used in the titles of monographs in the European Pharmacopoeia and are thus the official names in the member states. For these substances, manufacturers' labels will show the European Pharmacopoeia names as well as the rINNs (epinephrine and norepinephrine).

The following lists show those substances in common use for which the former BAN has been modified to accord with the rINN. A complete list of name changes (including superseded drugs) is available at [www.mhra.gov.uk](http://www.mhra.gov.uk). The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has proposed a timetable for the changeover to the new British Approved Names.

Former BAN	New BAN
amethocaine	tetracaine
aminacrine	aminoacridine
amoxicillin	amoxicillin
amphetamine	amfetamine
amylobarbitone	amobarbital
amylobarbitone sodium	amobarbital sodium
beclomethasone	beclometasone
bendrofluazide	bendroflumethiazide
benorylate	benorilate
benzhexol	trihexyphenidyl
benztropine	benzotropine
busulphan	busulfan
butobarbitone	butobarbital
carticaine	artcaine
cephalexin	cefalexin
cephradine	cefradine
chloral betaine	cloral betaine
chlorbutol	chlorobutanol
chlormethiazole	clomethiazole
chlorpheniramine	chlorphenamine
chlorthalidone	chlortalidone
cholecalciferol	colecalfiferol
cholestyramine	colestyramine
clomiphene	clomifene
colistin sulphomethate sodium	colistimethate sodium
corticotrophin	corticotropin
cyclosporin	ciclosporin
cysteamine	mercaptamine
danthron	dantron
desoxymethasone	desoximetasone
dexamphetamine	dexamfetamine
dibrompropamidine	dibrompropamidine
dicyclomine	dicycloverine
dienoestrol	dienestrol
dimethicone(s)	dimeticone
dimethyl sulphoxide	dimethyl sulfoxide
dothiepin	dosulepin
doxycycline hydrochloride (hemihydrate hemiethanolate)	doxycycline hyclate
efomoterol	formoterol
ethamsylate	etamsylate
ethinyloestradiol	ethinylestradiol
ethynodiol	etynodiol
flumethasone	flumetasone
flupentixol	flupentixol
flurandrenolone	fludroxycortide
frusemide	furosemide
gestronol	gestonorone
guaiphenesin	guaifenesin

Former BAN	New BAN
hexachlorophane	hexachlorophene
hexamine hippurate	methenamine hippurate
hydroxyurea	hydroxycarbamide
indomethacin	indometacin
lignocaine	lidocaine
lysuride	lisuride
methotrimeprazine	levomepromazine
methyl cysteine	mecysteine
methylene blue	methylthioninium chloride
mitozantrone	mitoxantrone
mustine	chlormethine
nicoumalone	acenocoumarol
oestradiol	estradiol
oestriol	estriol
oestrone	estrone
oxpentifylline	pentoxifylline
phenobarbitone	phenobarbital
pipothiazine	pipotiazine
polyhexanide	polihexanide
potassium clorazepate	dipotassium clorazepate
pramoxine	pramocaine
procaine penicillin	procaine benzylpenicillin
prothionamide	protionamide
quinalbarbitone	secobarbital
riboflavine	riboflavin
salcatonin	calcitonin (salmon)
sodium calciumedetate	sodium calcium edetate
sodium cromoglycate	sodium cromoglicate
sodium ironedetate	sodium feredetate
sodium picosulphate	sodium picosulfate
sorbitan monostearate	sorbitan stearate
stibocaptate	sodium stibocaptate
stilboestrol	diethylstilbestrol
sulphacetamide	sulfacetamide
sulphadiazine	sulfadiazine
sulphamethoxazole	sulfamethoxazole
sulphapyridine	sulfapyridine
sulphasalazine	sulfasalazine
sulphathiazole	sulfathiazole
sulphinpyrazone	sulfinpyrazone
tetracosactrin	tetracosactin
thiabendazole	tiabendazole
thioguanine	tioguanine
thiopentone	thiopental
thymoxamine	moxisylyte
thyroxine sodium	levothyroxine sodium
tribavirin	ribavirin
trimeprazine	alimemazine
urofollitrophin	urofollitropin

New BAN	Former BAN
acenocoumarol	nicoumalone
alimemazine	trimeprazine
amphetamine	amphetamine
aminoacridine	aminacrine
amobarbital	amylobarbitone
amobarbital sodium	amylobarbitone sodium
amoxicillin	amoxicillin
artcaine	carticaine
beclometasone	beclomethasone
bendroflumethiazide	bendrofluazide
benorilate	benorylate
benztropine	benztropine
busulfan	busulphan
butobarbital	butobarbitone
calcitonin (salmon)	salcatonin
cefalexin	cephalexin
cefradine	cephradine
chlormethine	mustine
chlorbutanol	chlorbutol
chlorphenamine	chlorpheniramine
chlortalidone	chlorthalidone
ciclosporin	cyclosporin
clomethiazole	chlormethiazole
clomifene	clomiphene
cloral betaine	cloral betaine
colecalfiferol	cholecalciferol
cholestyramine	cholestyramine
colistimethate sodium	colistin sulphomethate sodium
corticotropin	corticotrophin
dantron	danthron
desoximetasone	desoxymethasone
dexamfetamine	dexamphetamine
dibrompropamidine	dibrompropamidine
dicycloverine	dicyclomine
dienestrol	dienoestrol
diethylstilbestrol	stilboestrol
dimethyl sulfoxide	dimethyl sulphoxide
dimeticone	dimethicone(s)
dipotassium clorazepate	potassium clorazepate
dosulepin	dothiepin
doxycycline hyclate	doxycycline hydrochloride (hemihydrate hemiethanolate)
estradiol	oestradiol
estriol	oestriol
estrone	oestrone
etamsylate	ethamsylate
ethinylestradiol	ethinyloestradiol
etynodiol	ethynodiol
fludroxycortide	flurandrenolone

New BAN	Former BAN
flumetasone	flumethasone
flupentixol	flupentixol
formoterol	efomoterol
furosemide	frusemide
gestonorone	gestronol
guaifenesin	guaiphenesin
hexachlorophene	hexachlorophane
hydroxycarbamide	hydroxyurea
indometacin	indomethacin
levomepromazine	methotrimeprazine
levothyroxine sodium	thyroxine sodium
lidocaine	lignocaine
lisuride	lysuride
mecysteine	methyl cysteine
mercaptamine	cysteamine
methenamine hippurate	hexamine hippurate
methylthioninium chloride	methylene blue
mitoxantrone	mitozantrone
moxisylyte	thymoxamine
oxpentifylline	oxpentifylline
phenobarbital	phenobarbitone
pipotiazine	pipothiazine
polihexanide	polyhexanide
pramocaine	pramoxine
procaine benzylpenicillin	procaine penicillin
protionamide	prothionamide
ribavirin	tribavirin
riboflavin	riboflavine
secobarbital	quinalbarbitone
sodium calcium edetate	sodium calciumedetate
sodium cromoglicate	sodium cromoglycate
sodium feredetate	sodium ironedetate
sodium picosulfate	sodium picosulphate
sodium stibocaptate	stibocaptate
sorbitan stearate	sorbitan monostearate
sulfacetamide	sulphacetamide
sulfadiazine	sulphadiazine
sulfamethoxazole	sulphamethoxazole
sulfapyridine	sulphapyridine
sulfasalazine	sulphasalazine
sulfathiazole	sulphathiazole
sulfinpyrazone	sulphinpyrazone
tetracaine	amethocaine
tetracosactin	tetracosactrin
thiopental	thiopentone
tiabendazole	thiabendazole
tioguanine	thioguanine
trihexyphenidyl	benzhexol
urofollitropin	urofollitrophin

## Keeping an eye on safety as drug names change

The National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) advises healthcare professionals to consider fully the risks arising from the name changes overleaf.

Patients who are unaware of the name changes may not take a medicine with an unfamiliar name, or they may take the wrong medicine or take duplicate doses of medicines prescribed for them.

The following tips may help healthcare professionals minimise the risks:

1. Inform all healthcare staff (including part-time and locum staff) who are involved with medicines of the name changes.
2. Display this poster in clinical areas where medicines are used.
3. Update prescribing and dispensing databases with the new names.
4. Ensure that names have been changed on repeat prescribing forms and on medicine administration record forms in care homes.
5. For name changes judged to pose a higher risk, place reminders of the changes in prescribing and dispensing systems, in prescribing, dispensing, administration areas and in medicine storage areas.
6. Take special care when supplying products that bear the former BAN. Manufacturers have until December 2004 to change the name on their product literature and packaging.
7. Alert patients, carers and those who collect medicines on patients' behalf that the name of the medicine on the prescription or dispensing label has changed.
8. When relocating medicines whose names have changed significantly to appropriate new locations, place reminders of the new names in the previous locations.
9. Withdraw from clinical areas stocks of medicines whose names have changed significantly and are considered to pose higher risk: instead, supply them in containers labelled for individual patients.
10. Dispense patient packs that use either the former name or the new name but not a combination of the two.
11. Labelling of medicines with both the new and the old names is not encouraged but in exceptional cases, where a risk cannot be addressed effectively in other ways, specific medicines can be labelled with both names when dispensed or supplied during the changeover period.
12. Ensure that pharmacy labelling and stock control systems can produce dispensing labels using the new name and maintain effective ordering communication with pharmaceutical suppliers.



## Changes to approved names of drugs

A reference aid provided by the BNF in collaboration with the National Patient Safety Agency

This poster is suitable for display in areas where medicines are prescribed, dispensed or administered.

Use the poster to look up drugs whose names have changed. For ease of use, names are shown in two tables: in the first table drugs are listed alphabetically by the former name and in the second table, by the new name.



The BNF now uses the new names throughout, but the older ones have been retained as synonyms and they are also included in the general index. Other significant changes are listed on pp. viii-ix of BNF 47.

It is essential to use the correct name of a drug in patients' notes and referral letters. More importantly, the correct name should appear on prescriptions and labels of dispensed medicines. To avoid mistakes, prescriptions should also:

- Use recognised symbols and abbreviations (e.g. 'mL' or 'ml', not 'c.c.')
  - Not abbreviate 'micrograms' and 'units'.
- For more advice on good prescription writing, see p.4 BNF 47.

This year's BNF prescribing excellence conference deals with safe and effective use of medicines in children. Details of the conference, to be held on 18th May 2004 at the Commonwealth Institute in London, may be found at [www.bma.org.uk/conferences](http://www.bma.org.uk/conferences).

## rINNs and new BANs – are they different?

**No.** Certainly not for the drugs in this poster. Some advice about name changes describes the new names as rINNs (Recommended International Nonproprietary Names). In fact, in 1998, the British Approved Names (BANs) were actually changed to accord with rINNs. Therefore, for the drugs listed on the reverse, the British Approved Name is exactly the same as the Recommended International Nonproprietary Name.

UK medicine legislation recognises names constructed by the British Pharmacopoeia, in effect, the BANs.



National Patient Safety Agency

For further information visit the website of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) at [www.mhra.gov.uk](http://www.mhra.gov.uk)

For information about the NPSA visit [www.npsa.nhs.uk](http://www.npsa.nhs.uk)