

Definitions used to identify new drugs from the British National Formulary (BNF).

Category		Definition
New drugs	New Chemical Entities (NCEs)	Active chemical ingredient that appears in BNF for the first time in any preparation or form.
	New biologics	Biological product that appears in BNF for the first time in any preparation or form. Includes biologic drugs; recombinant blood products; and a new source or preparation technique for hormone drugs.
Existing drugs	New salts/esters	Appears in BNF for the first time in that form, where previous forms of the compound have already been entered.
	Existing compounds	An active chemical ingredient or drug substance that has already appeared in an earlier edition of the BNF, including generic drugs.
	Existing biologics	Biological product that appears in earlier edition of BNF. Includes combinations of existing products (e.g. combinations of existing insulins or other hormones) and biosimilar products.
Other substances	Immunisations and vaccines	Passive or active immunisations/vaccines for the prevention of disease.
	Nutraceuticals & medical foods	Includes vitamins, dietary supplements, foods for special diets, nutritionally complete or incomplete formulas for intravenous nutrition, and oral rehydration products.
	Natural products	A substance that occurs naturally and has not been chemically manipulated, though mechanical manipulation may have taken place.
	Devices	E.g. inhaler spacer devices, bandages.
	Diagnostic products	E.g. tests for helicobacter pylori. These are products used for the detection and/or diagnosis of diseases rather than as therapies.
Uncoded		An entry where no specific substances (active or otherwise) have been named, e.g. 'cleansing solution'.