**Medicines Information for Drugs in Breastfeeding During the COVID epidemic**

**Updated 21/04/2020**

It is recommended that breastfeeding continue to be supported if a mother becomes infected with COVID-19. The benefits of breastfeeding outweigh any unknown risk of viral transmission via breast milk.

Mothers may also be on medicines to manage their symptoms whilst infected with COVID-19 and it is important to consider the safety of these medicines during breastfeeding.

The UK Drugs in Lactation Advisory Service (UKDILAS) provides the resources which should be used by HCPs in primary care in the following order:

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| Drug Monograph | * In the Specialist Pharmacy Service Website, <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/>
	+ type the name of the medicine in the search button on the top of the page, and press return
	+ on the left hand side of the page, scroll down to the section headed ‘usage’
	+ Click on ‘safety in lactation;
* Follow advice based using the published definitions: <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/drugs-in-lactation-definitions/>
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| Medicines Q&A | * A list of the available, approved Q&As relating to breastfeeding: <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/?s=&cat%5B1%5D=31&cat%5B2%5D=3008>

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| UKDILAS specialist medicines information | * Before you contact the specialist center collect all the necessary information:
	+ Patient specific or general enquiry
	+ Age of infant (gestational age if premature)
	+ Status of infant – healthy/morbidity. Any additional risk factors e.g. impaired renal/liver function, respiratory depression
	+ Maternal and infant drug(s) including route of administration, dose, frequency and duration of therapy (include OTC and dietary supplements, herbal preparations etc)
	+ Has mother already taken the drug(s)
	+ Have any other alternatives been tried or considered?
	+ Details of person raising the enquiry – patient, doctor, health visitor
* For contact details, follow this link: <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/ukdilas/>,
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**References:**

Communication from Vanessa Chapman, Director, Trent Medicines Information Centre & the UK Drugs in Lactation Advisory Service

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) accessed April 2020