

Health

A pharmacist's guide to using UpToDate

Key UpToDate Features:

- 1 Full search functionality for pharmacists
- 2 Tables, graphics, and algorithms provide additional detail
- 3 Find useful features and relevant links within a topic
- 4 Drug information for pharmacists
- 5 Patient education leaflets
- 6 Create your own personalized homepage
- 7 Remote access

With UpToDate®, pharmacists can search topics about conditions and treatments, view tables, graphics, and algorithms, obtain drug information, analyze drug interactions, and share patient education materials.

1 Full search functionality for pharmacists

Enter a sign, symptom, condition, drug, lab abnormalities, or protocol. Be specific in what you are searching for.

Search UpToDate

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Examples of search terms

- ▶ Abacavir hypersensitivity
- ▶ Geriatric — drug prescribing, etc.
- ▶ Uterine Fibroids treatment
- ▶ Antibiotic reaction
- ▶ Gout management
- ▶ Stewardship — outpatient, inpatient, antimicrobial, etc.
- ▶ Benzodiazepine use in elderly
- ▶ Herbal medicine for ovarian cancer
- ▶ Symptoms Stevens Johnson Syndrome
- ▶ Embolism risk oral contraceptives
- ▶ Hip fracture DVT prophylaxis

**TRUSTED
RESOURCE
FOR PHARMACISTS**

Subscribing pharmacists say*:

- 95%** I trust UpToDate as a point-of-care decision support resource
- 95%** UpToDate impacts patient management
- 90%** UpToDate helps prevent errors

2 Tables, graphics, and algorithms provide additional detail

Use filters to quickly identify graphics related to:

- Images to support choices in drug therapy for specific conditions
- Algorithms and charts for patient treatment, and management

Enter your query into the search bar. Search example: Diuretics used to treat hypertension

Graphics related to your search will populate, in this example: Diuretics used to treat hypertension.

Click on a graphic to view in more detail, in this example: Pharmacology of diuretics used to treat hypertension.

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Pharmacology of diuretics used to treat hypertension

	Bioavailability (%)	Half-life (hours)	Duration of action (hours)
Thiazide diuretics*			
Bendroflumethiazide	90	3-4	6-12
Chlorothiazide	9-56 (dose dependent)	Biphasic: Initially 1-2, then ~12	6-12
Hydrochlorothiazide	65-75	Biphasic: Initially ~5, then 6-15	6-12
Thiazide-like diuretics			
Chlorthalidone	65	40-60 [¶]	24-72
Indapamide	90	Biphasic: Initially ~14, then 25	16-36
Metolazone	65	6-20	18-25
Loop diuretics			
Bumetanide	80-90	1-1.5	4-6
Furosemide	47-64 (oral absorption is reportedly more variable in organ dysfunction and with gut-wall edema)	0.5-2	6-8
Torsemide	80	3.5	6-8
Ethacrynic acid	~100	2-4	12

3 Find useful features and relevant links within a topic

Understand evidence-based therapies for conditions.

The search example below is for epilepsy treatment. Summary and recommendations provide you with a quick, clear, and concise answer.

Browse table of contents for quick access to conditions and treatments

Share topics with your colleagues

UpToDate® epilepsy

Overview of the management of epilepsy in adults

ANTISEIZURE DRUG THERAPY

When to start antiseizure drug therapy — Immediate antiseizure drug therapy is usually not necessary in individuals after a single seizure, particularly if a first seizure is provoked by factors that resolve. Antiseizure drug therapy should be started in patients who are at significant risk for recurrent seizures, such as those with remote symptomatic seizures. Antiseizure drug treatment is generally started after two or more unprovoked seizures, because the recurrence proves that the patient has a substantially increased risk for repeated seizures, well above 50 percent.

The issues to be considered in deciding when to start antiseizure drug therapy are discussed in detail separately. (See "[Initial treatment of epilepsy in adults](#)", section on 'When to start antiseizure medication therapy'.)

Antiseizure drug therapy is not necessarily lifelong. (See "[Discontinuing antiseizure drug therapy](#)" below.)

Choosing an antiseizure drug — Approximately half of patients with a new diagnosis of epilepsy will become seizure free with the first antiseizure drug prescribed ([8,9](#)). Tolerability of side effects is as important as efficacy in determining the overall effectiveness of treatment. No single antiseizure drug is optimal for every patient. The selection of a specific antiseizure drug for treating seizures must be individualized considering:

- Drug effectiveness for the seizure type or types ([table 3](#) and [table 4](#)) ([10](#))
- Potential adverse effects of the drug ([table 5](#) and [table 6](#))
- Interactions with other medications
- Comorbid medical conditions, especially, but not limited to, hepatic and renal disease
- Age and gender, including childbearing plans
- Lifestyle and patient preferences
- Cost

In general, enzyme-inducing antiseizure drugs (eg, [phenytoin](#), [carbamazepine](#), [phenobarbital](#), [primidone](#), and less so, [oxcarbazepine](#) and [topiramate](#)) are the most problematic for drug interactions with [warfarin](#) and oral contraceptive therapy, as well as certain anticancer and anti-infective drugs ([table 7](#)). Specific interactions of antiseizure drugs with other medications may be determined using the [Lexicomp drug interactions](#) tool.

Issues to consider in selecting a specific antiseizure drug are discussed in detail separately. (See "[Initial treatment of epilepsy in adults](#)", section on 'Selection of an antiseizure medication'.)

4 Drug information for Pharmacists

Access drug information to better understand prescribed medications, administrations, side effects, and drug interactions. Answer questions about dosing, adverse effects, contraindications and warnings, and more.

The drug information in UpToDate originates from the full Lexicomp drug reference solution. The drug monographs are abridged, intended to meet the needs for clinician prescribing. The full Lexicomp solution is intended to meet the full range of everyday needs of pharmacists by including multiple searchable content sets and a variety of tools, including formulary decision-making support.

Click "Drug Information" under Contents menus for easy access.

UpToDate® Search UpToDate

Contents ▾ Calculators Drug Interactions UpToDate Pathways

Back Drug Information

You receive the entire UpToDate library of specialties with your subscription. Click on a section below to view a detailed list of topics associated with that particular section. If you'd like to see the table of contents for other specialties, [click here](#).

General drug information Patient drug information **What's new in drug therapy**

International drug information (concise) Pediatric drug information Patient Education

Drug Discovery: Stay on top of what's new in drug research.

Click on "What's new in Drug Therapy", as shown at the bottom of page 3, to see the latest evidence.

Search for a drug name to view a drug monograph, providing you with information on the:

✓ Right drug ✓ Right dose ✓ Right route ✓ Right time ✓ Right patient

The UpToDate Drug Interactions Tool differentiates between drug combinations that should be avoided or modified immediately and combinations that warrant careful monitoring to ensure a medical problem does not arise in the future.

You can search for drug-drug, drug-natural product, drug-alcohol, and drug-vitamin interactions. Enter the drugs, herbs, and vitamins being taken by your patient. Next, click on the combination to find out more. This may help minimize reduced or exacerbated drug effects leading to poor treatment outcomes.

5 Patient education leaflets

Enhance patient engagement and family communication with UpToDate patient education leaflets found under the “Contents” tab.

Contents ▾ Calculators Drug Interactions UpToDate Pathways

Two options are available:

1. Basics
2. Beyond the Basics

Patient Education

UpToDate offers two levels of content for patient education:

- **The Basics** are short overviews. They are written in accordance with plain language principles and answer the four or five most important questions a person might have about a medical problem.
- **Beyond the Basics** are longer, more detailed reviews. They are best for readers who want detailed information and are comfortable with some medical terminology.

Select Category to browse topics.
You can also find patient education materials from within a topic.

To browse the available patient education topics in UpToDate, click on a category below.

Allergies and asthma	Ear, nose, and throat	Lung disease
Arthritis	Eyes and vision	Men's health issues
Autoimmune disease	Gastrointestinal system	Mental health
Blood disorders	General health	Pregnancy and childbirth
Bones, joints, and muscles	Heart and blood vessel disease	Senior health
Brain and nerves	HIV and AIDS	Skin, hair, and nails
Cancer	Hormones	Sleep
Children's health	Infections and vaccines	Surgery
Diabetes	Kidneys and urinary system	Travel health
Diet and weight	Liver disease	Women's health issues

Topic tools

Contents ▾ Calculators Drug Interactions UpToDate Pathways

anaphylaxis Find Print Share A Bookmark

Patient Education: Anaphylaxis (The Basics)

You can share information with your patient via a no-reply email account.

You can bookmark search results, patient education, topics, and graphics for quicker access from your personal homepage.

Patient Education: The Basics is available in English, Spanish, and Arabic.

TIP: Patient information can be accessed under the contents tab, within the results page filter, and within topics.

What is anaphylaxis?

Anaphylaxis is the term doctors use to describe a serious allergic reaction. It can happen very quickly and can cause death. Anaphylaxis can happen after a person:

- Eats a food they are allergic to
- Takes a medicine they are allergic to
- Is stung by an insect they are allergic to
- Touches something made out of latex

Other triggers can also cause anaphylaxis.

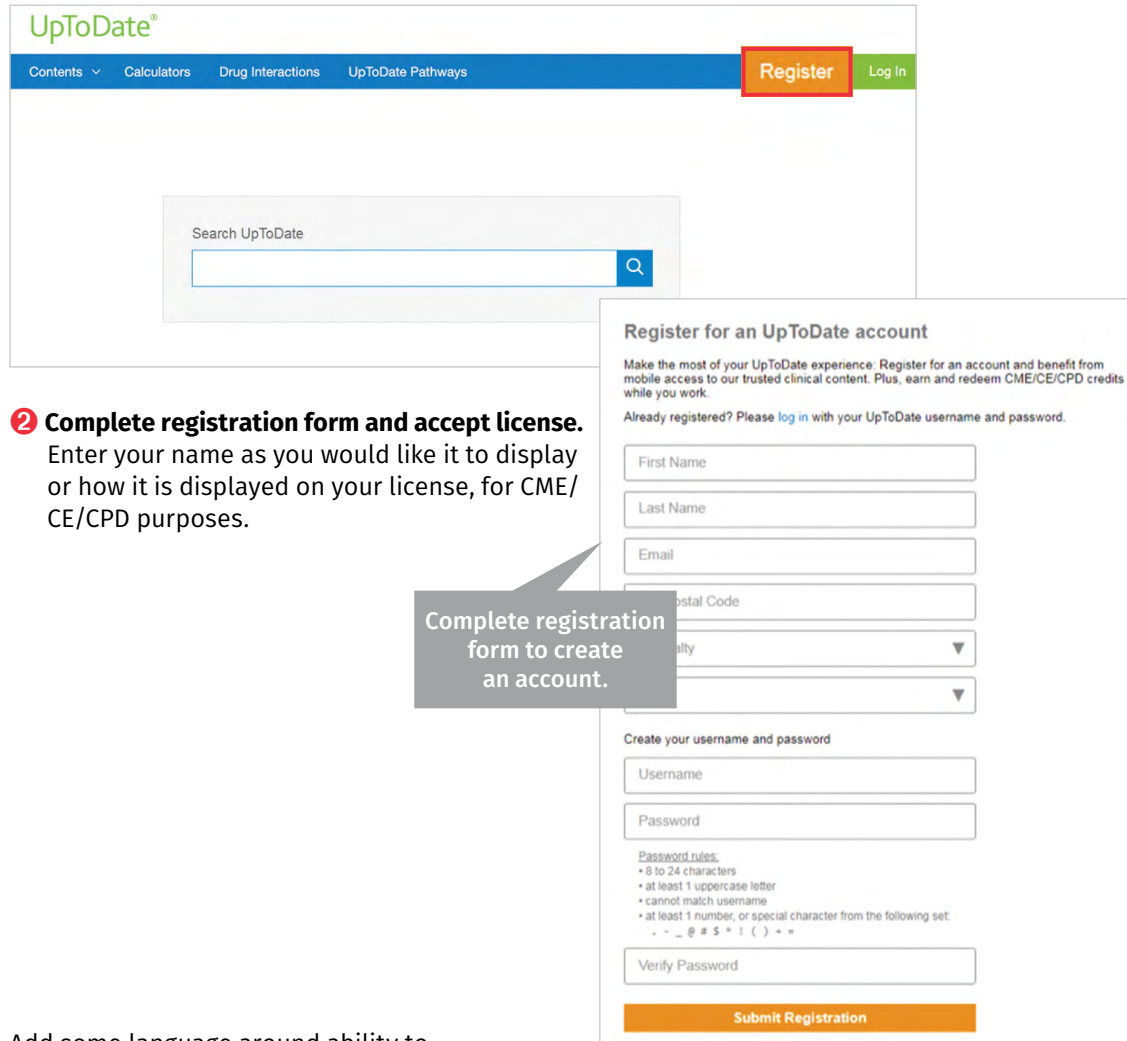
You might know if you are allergic to something. But you can also have anaphylaxis even if you don't know you have an allergy.

6 Create your own personalized homepage

With your personalized homepage, you can bookmark content for quicker access, browse your history, receive alerts, and use the UpToDate mobile app.

TO GET STARTED, FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

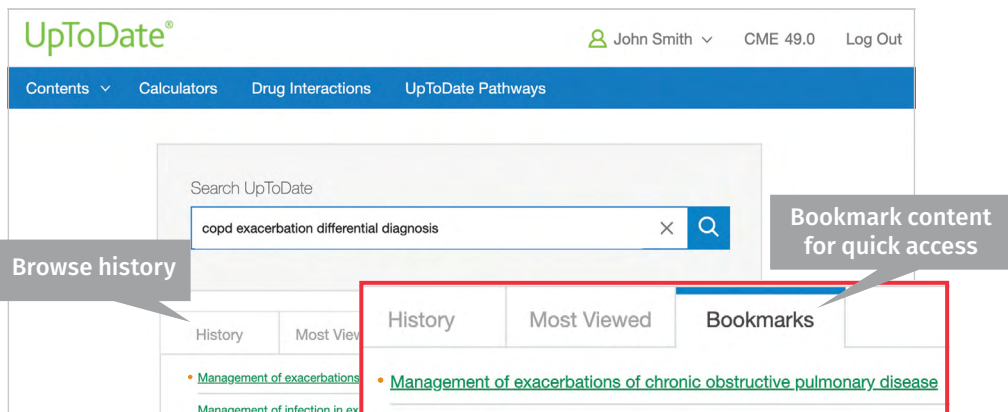
- 1 **Click register.** You can create an UpToDate Account **only** from a computer within your institution or within your organization's internal network — www.uptodate.com.




The screenshot shows the UpToDate website's registration page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Contents', 'Calculators', 'Drug Interactions', and 'UpToDate Pathways'. A 'Register' button is highlighted in orange, and a 'Log In' button is in green. Below the navigation bar is a search bar with the text 'Search UpToDate'. The main content area is titled 'Register for an UpToDate account'. It includes a sub-header, a paragraph explaining the benefits of registration, and a link for already registered users. The form contains several input fields: 'First Name', 'Last Name', 'Email', 'Postal Code', 'City', and 'State'. Below these are fields for 'Create your username and password', including 'Username', 'Password', and 'Verify Password'. A 'Submit Registration' button is at the bottom. A callout box points to the form with the text 'Complete registration form to create an account.'

- 2 **Complete registration form and accept license.** Enter your name as you would like it to display or how it is displayed on your license, for CME/CE/CPD purposes.

Add some language around ability to create bookmarks, etc. post registration.



The screenshot shows the UpToDate user interface after registration. The user is logged in as 'John Smith' with 'CME 49.0' and a 'Log Out' button. The navigation bar is the same as in the previous screenshot. The search bar contains the text 'copd exacerbation differential diagnosis'. Below the search bar, there are tabs for 'History', 'Most Viewed', and 'Bookmarks'. The 'Bookmarks' tab is selected and highlighted with a red box. A callout box points to the search bar with the text 'Bookmark content for quick access'. Another callout box points to the 'History' tab with the text 'Browse history'. The 'Bookmarks' tab shows a list of bookmarked items, including 'Management of exacerbations of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease'.

 The orange dot alerts you to new research added since your last view of the record.

7 Remote access

Conveniently access UpToDate on any device. Enter your log-in credentials for remote access on your tablet or computer. Follow these instructions to download and install the mobile app:

- Go to your App Store
- Search for UpToDate
- Click on the UpToDate icon
- Download and install the app
- Enter your UpToDate username and password you created during registration the first time you access the app

