PIPADOR REVISION

# MRCOG Part 1 Revision Notes

## *Safe Prescribing*

PHARMACOLOGY • LECTURE 372

VISUAL EXAMINATION REVISION NOTES

*2026 Edition*

372

MRCOG PART 1 REVISION NOTES | PHARMACOLOGY

# Safe Prescribing

*Principles of safe prescribing, medication errors, high-risk medicines, ADR classification and special groups*

| ≈ 1 in 10 | Allergy status | PPP | Yellow Card |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hospital patients experience error (approx.) | Document reaction type | Valproate & retinoids | Report ADRs (MHRA) |

**■ KEY FACTS: Learning objectives**

- Describe principles of safe prescribing and common sources of medication error.
- Describe high-risk medicines and safeguards in O&G.
- Describe adverse drug reaction classification and reporting, and prescribing in special groups.

## 372.1 Principles

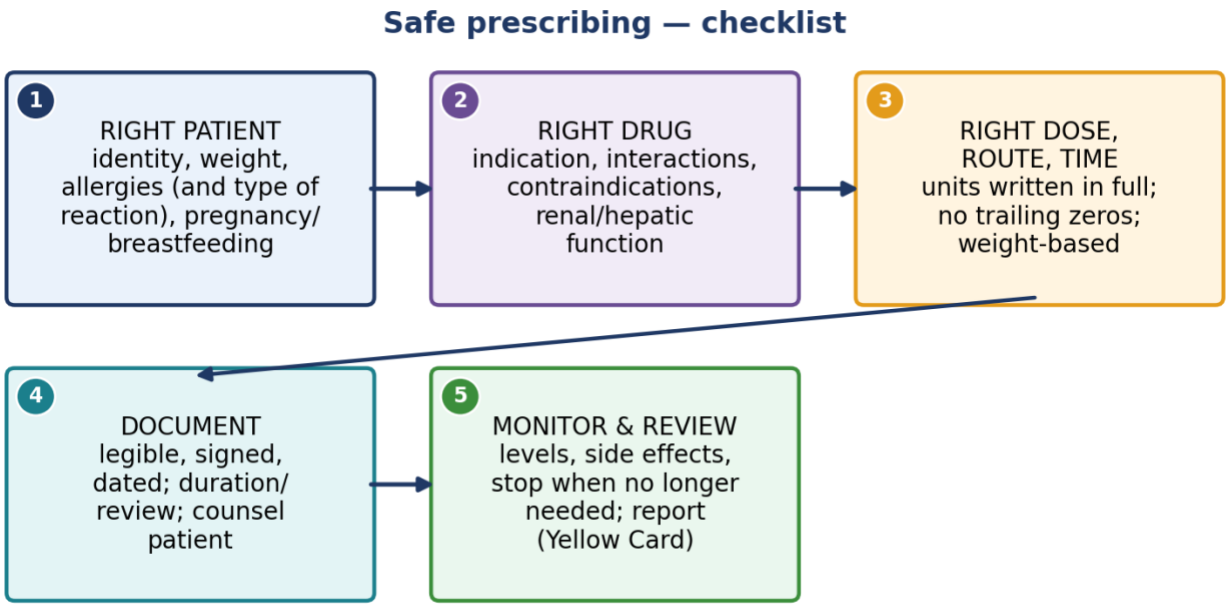



*Figure 372.1 — Safe prescribing checklist*

- Common errors: wrong dose/units (insulin 'u' misread), wrong patient
  - Omitted doses (anticoagulants, antibiotics in sepsis), allergy failures
  - Transcription errors, decimal errors
  - Look-alike/sound-alike drugs (ergometrine/oxytocin).
- System safeguards: electronic prescribing with decision support
  - Standardised infusion concentrations, double-checking, pharmacist review
  - Medicines reconciliation
  - PGDs for midwives.

## 372.2 High-risk medicines

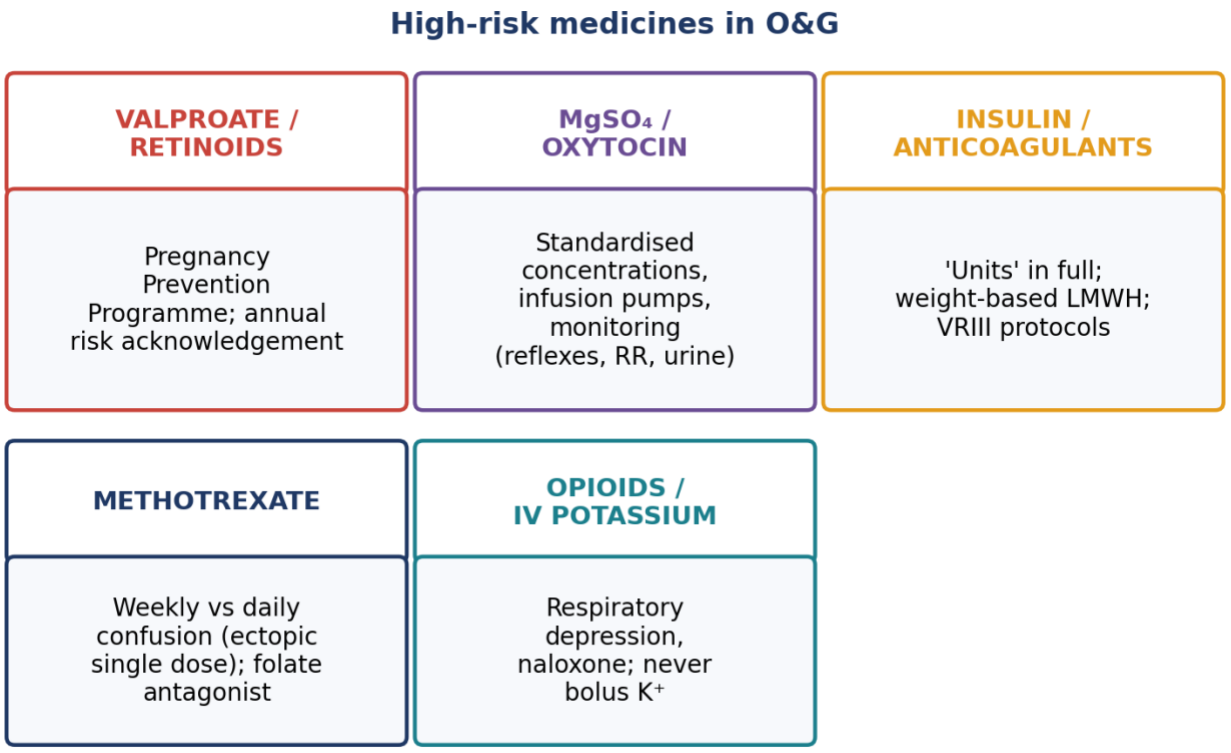



*Figure 372.2 — High-risk medicines in O&G*

| ADR type | Description | Examples |
|---|---|---|
| **A (augmented)** | Dose-related, predictable extension of pharmacology | Hypotension with nifedipine, bleeding with LMWH, respiratory depression with opioids |
| **B (bizarre)** | Not dose-related, unpredictable (immunological/idiosyncratic) | Anaphylaxis (penicillin), SJS/TEN, malignant hyperthermia |
| **C (chronic)** | Long-term use | Osteoporosis (steroids, DMPA, heparin) |
| **D (delayed)** | Delayed effects | Teratogenicity, carcinogenesis |
| **E (end of use)** | Withdrawal | SSRIs, benzodiazepines, opioids (neonatal abstinence) |
| **F (failure)** | Unexpected failure | Contraceptive failure with inducers |

## 372.3 Special groups

- **Pregnancy/breastfeeding**: use established drugs at lowest effective dose; check BNF, UKTIS, UKDILAS.
- **Renal/hepatic impairment**: adjust (gentamicin, LMWH, magnesium in oliguria — pre-eclampsia).
- **Extremes of weight**: weight-based LMWH, antibiotics (cefazolin 3 g if > 120 kg).
- **Adolescents and capacity**: Fraser guidelines for contraception; Gillick competence.

## 372.4 Must-know summary

**■ EXAM TIP**

- Right patient, drug, dose, route, time, documentation, review.
- High-risk: valproate/retinoids (PPP), $MgSO_4$, oxytocin, insulin, anticoagulants, methotrexate, opioids, potassium.
- ADR types A–F; report via Yellow Card (black triangle drugs, children, pregnancy).
- Write 'units' in full; avoid abbreviations; weight-based dosing.

**■ MNEMONIC / MEMORY AID**

**ADR classification — 'A Big Cat Dined Every Friday' (Augmented, Bizarre, Chronic, Delayed, End-of-use, Failure)**.