

CEPHALOSPORIN DRUG INTERACTIONS TABLE V2.0

This information on drug interactions with antimicrobials is intended for use as a guide and not as a complete reference source. Further information is available in the SmPCs of the individual medicines (section 4.5) available at www.HPRA.ie, the BNF Appendix 1 and Stockley's Drug Interactions. Please be aware that new evidence may emerge that may overtake some of these recommendations.

Antibiotic Class	Interacting Drug	Comment
Cephalosporins e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cefaclor• Cefixime• Cefuroxime• Cefalexin• Cefazolin• Ceftriaxone	Zinc	With cefalexin: risk of reduced bioavailability and efficacy. Separate the doses by 3 hours or more to avoid interaction.
	Warfarin	Penicillins and cephalosporins are preferred alternatives when patients are on warfarin. Documented reports of bleeding incidents with these antibiotics are rare even though a theoretical risk exists. Monitor INR during and after antimicrobial treatment and adjust warfarin dose as necessary.

Combined Hormonal Contraception

Extra precautions are no longer required when using combined hormonal contraception (CHC) with antibiotics (unless those antibiotics are enzyme inducers e.g. rifampicin, rifabutin, isoniazid). The usual additional precautions regarding vomiting, diarrhoea and non-adherence to CHC apply. Correct contraceptive practice must be adhered to.

The National Medicines Information Centre ([NMIC](http://www.nmic.ie)) clinical enquiry answering service is available to prescribers in Ireland for further information about a specific drug-drug interaction(s). Contact details for the NMIC are available [here](#).