METRONIDAZOLE DRUG INTERACTIONS TABLE V2.1

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	Interacting Drug	Comment
Metronidazole	**Warfarin**	Enhances anticoagulant effect of warfarin. Risk of bleeding. The INR should be checked frequently and warfarin dosage adjusted accordingly, particularly following initiation or discontinuation of metronidazole.
	Lithium	Plasma levels of lithium may be increased by metronidazole. Advise patients to report lithium adverse effects (tremor, dysarthria, ataxia, confusion).
	Alcohol	A disulfiram-like reaction can occur between metronidazole and alcohol. The reaction is generally more unpleasant than serious. Patients should be advised not to take alcohol (or drugs containing alcohol) during metronidazole therapy and up to 72 hours afterwards because of a disulfiram-like (antabuse effect) reaction (i.e. flushing, vomiting, tachycardia).

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). 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) 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.