


## Home Page

This website uses cookies. By continuing to browse this website you are agreeing to our use of cookies.  
Find out more about [cookies](#) or view our [cookie policy](#).

Home Reference standards and catalogue BP Publications Monograph information About us Search this site...

 **British Pharmacopoeia** Register / Log in to access our full range of products and subscriptions

Register Login Login with OpenAthens

**BP 2017 is available now!**  
Find out about what's new this year and choose the right format for you

**Need a subscription?**  
To access the BP publication content you need to log in. If you do not have a subscription, find out about the options available to you.

**Latest news**  
Dec 2 December update for BPCRS standards status now available  
[View all news](#)

**Buy BPCRS**  
View our up-to-date catalogue and place your BPCRS orders here.  
[View catalogue](#)

## Logo



## URL

<https://www.pharmacopoeia.com/>

## Subject

Pharmacopoeias -- Great Britain;  
Medicine-- Great Britain--Standards

## Accessibility

On subscription base

## Language

English

## Publisher

Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, Government of UK.

## Brief History

The **British Pharmacopoeia (BP)** is the national pharmacopoeia of the United Kingdom. It is an annual published collection of quality standards for UK medicinal substances. It is used by individuals and organizations involved in pharmaceutical research, development, manufacture and testing. The first list of approved drugs, with information on how they should be prepared, was the London Pharmacopoeia - published in 1618. The first edition of this publication is now known as the British Pharmacopoeia was published in 1864, and was one of the first attempts to harmonise pharmaceutical standards, through the merger of the London, Edinburgh and Dublin Pharmacopoeias. The New Latin name that had some currency at the time was

**Pharmacopoeia Britannica** (Ph. Br.). A Commission was first appointed by the General Medical Council (GMC), when the body was made statutorily responsible under the Medical Act 1858 for producing a British Pharmacopoeia on a national basis. In 1907, the British Pharmacopoeia was supplemented by the British Pharmaceutical Codex, which gave information on drugs and other pharmaceutical substances not included in the BP, and provided standards for these.

The Medicines Act 1968 established the legal status of the British Pharmacopoeia Commission, and of the British Pharmacopoeia, as the UK standard for medicinal products under section 4 of the Act. The British Pharmacopoeia Commission continues the work of the earlier Commissions appointed by the GMC, and is responsible for preparing new editions of the British Pharmacopoeia and the British Pharmacopoeia (Veterinary), and for keeping them up to date. Since its first publication back in 1864, the distribution of the British Pharmacopoeia has grown throughout the world. It is now used in over 100 countries. Australia and Canada are two of the countries that have adopted the BP as their national standard alongside the UK, and in other countries, e.g. Korea, it is recognized as an internationally acceptable standard.

***Scope and Coverage***

Pharmacopoeia, pharmacopeia, or pharmacopoea (literally, "drug-making"), in its modern technical sense, is a book containing directions for the identification of compound medicines, and published by the authority of a government or a medical or pharmaceutical society. British Pharmacopoeia is such of **Pharmacopoeia** which provides comprehensive collection of authoritative official standards for UK pharmaceutical substances and medicinal products of United Kingdom. The BP includes general notices which provides general information applicable to all texts), general monographs which is applied to all dosage forms, specific monographs providing mandatory standards for active pharmaceutical ingredients, excipients, formulated preparations (licensed and unlicensed products), herbal drugs, herbal drug products and herbal medicinal products, materials for use in the manufacture of homoeopathic preparations, blood-related products, immunological products, radiopharmaceutical preparations and also includes infrared reference spectra. At the end it includes appendices, supplementary chapters (providing additional guidance) and comprehensive index.

***Kind of Information***

British Pharmacopoeia is a reference work for pharmaceutical drug specifications. It is a vital reference tool for all individuals and organizations involved in pharmaceutical research, development, manufacture, quality control and analysis. This specification provides information on different medicinal substances, formulated preparations of different medicines, blood related preparations, specifications on immunological products and radiopharmaceutical preparations, specifications on surgical Materials and Homeopathic preparations etc.

### ***Special Features***

- The BP (Veterinary) is published as a companion volume to the British Pharmacopoeia which contains standards for substances and products used solely in the practice of veterinary medicine in the UK. The BP (Vet) also incorporates monographs and texts of the European Pharmacopoeia.
- It incorporates a Reference Standards Catalogue by which one can search for pharmaceutical substances.
- The BP also publishes the British Approved Names (BAN) book. The BAN book is published every 5 years and supplements are published annually which is actually the official dictionary of drug names for regulatory use in the UK. Each entry of BAN book includes the official pronunciation guide, systematic name, molecular formula, molecular structure, CAS registry number, pharmacological action and/or medicinal use.

### ***Arrangement Pattern***

### ***Remarks***

The two pharmacopoeias that have legal status within the UK are the British Pharmacopoeia (BP), including the BP (Veterinary), and the European Pharmacopoeia (Ph. Eur.). Within which the BP provides comprehensive reference source and is published every year in August, becomes effective on 1 January of the following year. It incorporates all the monographs and texts of the Ph. Eur. It is only comprehensive collection of authoritative official standards for UK pharmaceutical substances and medicinal products.

### ***Comparable Tools***

- International Pharmacopoeia  
( <http://apps.who.int/phint/en/p/about/>)
- European Pharmacopoeia  
( <https://www.edqm.eu/>)
- Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission  
( <http://ipc.nic.in/>)
- Chinese Pharmacopoeia  
( <http://wp.chp.org.cn/en/index.html>)
- United States Pharmacopoeia  
( <http://www.usp.org/>)
- British National Formulary Online  
( <https://www.bnf.org/products/bnf-online/>)

### ***Date of Access***

December 22, 2016