

Safety update: simvastatin

Managing selected interactions with simvastatin and atorvastatin. Check [SPC](#) for full details before prescribing

Interacting drug or food	Statin	Prescribing Advice
Potent CYP3A4 inhibitors, including: Itraconazole Ketoconazole Posaconazole Erythromycin Clarithromycin Telithromycin	Simvastatin	Contraindicated with simvastatin In practice: If the interacting drug is taken for a short period, e.g. course of clarithromycin, then the simvastatin should be temporarily withheld. If the interacting drug is for long term use, an alternative agent to simvastatin will be required
	Atorvastatin	Avoid if possible Consider temporary suspension of atorvastatin if interacting drug is taken for short period. Itraconazole: do not exceed 40 mg atorvastatin daily Clarithromycin: do not exceed 20 mg atorvastatin daily
HIV protease Inhibitors	Simvastatin	Contraindicated with simvastatin
	Atorvastatin	Avoid if possible. Maximum recommended dose of atorvastatin depends on protease inhibitor used.
Ciclosporin	Simvastatin	Contraindicated with simvastatin
	Atorvastatin	Avoid if possible. Do not exceed 10 mg atorvastatin daily
Amiodarone Amlodipine Diltiazem Verapamil	Simvastatin	Do not exceed 20 mg simvastatin daily
	Atorvastatin	Monitor carefully for adverse effects. Consider a lower maximum dose of atorvastatin with concomitant amiodarone and verapamil.
Grapefruit juice	Simvastatin	Avoid grapefruit juice
	Atorvastatin	Limit intake of grapefruit juice to very small quantities (or avoid altogether)
Warfarin/courmarins	Simvastatin	Monitor INR before starting treatment and regularly during treatment, especially with dose changes
	Atorvastatin	Monitor INR before starting treatment and regularly during treatment, especially with dose changes
Gemfibrozil	Simvastatin	Contraindicated with simvastatin
	Atorvastatin	Use the lowest therapeutic dose of atorvastatin and monitor carefully for adverse effects
Other fibrates	Simvastatin	Do not exceed 10 mg simvastatin daily (Except if prescribed with fenofibrate; in that case caution required.)
	Atorvastatin	Use the lowest therapeutic dose of atorvastatin and monitor carefully for adverse effects
Danazol	Simvastatin	Contraindicated with simvastatin
	Atorvastatin	Use the lowest therapeutic dose of atorvastatin and monitor carefully for adverse effects
Fusidic acid	Simvastatin	Patients should be closely monitored. Temporary suspension of simvastatin may be considered.
	Atorvastatin	Patients should be closely monitored. Temporary suspension of atorvastatin treatment may be appropriate.