

## Galway: GAPP - Galway Antimicrobial Prescribing Policy / Guidelines (GAPP): Fluoroquinolones

Systemic fluoroquinolones are associated with disabling and potentially permanent serious side-effects involving the tendons, muscles, joints, nerves, and aorta. The risk of tendinopathy is increased in elderly patients – or those with concomitant steroid use, renal disease, or post-transplant (heart/lung/kidney). Fluoroquinolone use is also associated with QTc prolongation (which can lead to torsades de pointes and ventricular fibrillation), *C. difficile* colitis, aortic aneurysm rupture/dissections and heart valve regurgitation/ incompetence. See SPC for full product information. Patients should be informed of the risks and advised to stop treatment and contact prescriber if they experience pain or swelling in tendons/joints/muscle or neuropathy.