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**ALL COMMUNITY PHARMACIES IN
NHS LANARKSHIRE**

Date
Our Ref
Your Ref

11th April 2014
GL/IM

**ALL GP PRACTICES IN NHS
LANARKSHIRE**

Enquiries to
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**PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL LOCUMS
AND SUPPORT STAFF AS
APPROPRIATE**

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Dear Colleague

GLUTEN FREE FOOD SERVICE

This letter contains much of the information previously sent on 31st January 2014 but with a few important updates.

The details of this service are detailed in PCA (P) (2013) 29 which has previously been distributed.

There has been good interest among patients, GPs and pharmacists and all pharmacies within the “expanded” NHS Lanarkshire i.e. including the areas of Cambuslang, Rutherglen and the Northern Corridor are signed up to the service.

Feedback has generally been positive albeit there have been occasional difficulties in communication between practices and their local community pharmacies. This happens from time to time and our advice tends to be the same – if there are misconceptions by the GP practice and/or Pharmacy about exactly how the service should work then please take a few minutes to talk to each other to get a clarity about what you each expect of the other. In practice, 15 minutes spent early on to agree how to work together on this will save a lot of angst later on.

There are a few key documents required for the service and most are available on:

http://www.communitypharmacy.scot.nhs.uk/nhs_boards/NHS_Lanarkshire/gluten_free_food.html

These include:

- I. **The patient information leaflet.** This is a very quick read which is useful for GP and pharmacy staff as well as patients.

- II. **Updated 31st March 2014 Gluten Free Food Formulary.** This has been uploaded in the past week and supersedes previous versions. We expect the vast majority of supplies to come from the broad range of products on this formulary.
- III. **Gluten Free Food Requirement Form.** A simple form for patients to order their needs. (printer friendly)
- IV. **List of pharmacies providing the service.**

There are also a series of “related” links to background information and the NES pharmacy GFFS resource pack which is very good.

The exception to this is **the patient registration form**. We previously had this on our website but on the instructions of Scottish Government we have removed it. We know all the same that this is an important document for GPs to initiate the service hence copies of this form are being sent as an attachment to this letter and GP practices will be able to retain an e-copy for their use as and when required. Should any GP practice lose their e-copy a replacement can be obtained from their prescribing advisor or via Anne Buchanan/ Isobel Marshall on 01698 858127/8.

There are two other important points which pharmacists should ensure they do when completing a CPUS form to supply a patient. These are that:

- **The patients CHI number must be complete. This is essential for payment.**
- **The practice code of the patients GP practice must also be added to the CPUS form. This is essential for the spend on Gluten Free Foods to be appropriately allocated.**

There is quite an enthusiasm for the service because it should deliver benefits for patients, GPs and pharmacists so I certainly encourage its adoption.

Like any new service, there will be points for us all to learn, and notwithstanding that this is a national pilot with national review, I would be keen to hear of any constructive ideas from local GPs and pharmacists which may help us deliver this service as well as possible.



**GEORGE LINDSAY
CHIEF PHARMACIST
PRIMARY CARE**

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