

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate

Weekly Update

Dear All,

There is lots of really important content this week. Please ensure that all staff have access to this weekly communication. All pharmacy queries should continue to be sent to:

gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot

1. Monkeypox Awareness

CPS have shared some useful information about monkeypox here: [Pharmacy Team Information: Monkeypox — Community Pharmacy Scotland \(cps.scot\)](#)

In addition, our NHS Grampian key information is:

- this is an emerging situation - more information will be shared as available
- all pharmacy teams should be vigilant around potential monkeypox presentations and have a familiarity with symptoms (see CPS link above)
- all pharmacy teams should exercise extreme caution in relation to anyone presenting with undiagnosed rash/ulcers/skin lesions
- Individuals should be advised not to present if they have symptoms – they should be advised to stay at home and contact GP or 111 advising they have symptoms of monkeypox or have been in contact with confirmed case.

2. Queen's Jubilee Wholesaler Closures

Most pharmacy wholesalers will be closed on both Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd June due to alignment with the English Public Holidays. You will receive orders on Wednesday afternoon with no further delivery until Saturday morning. Please ensure you have planned around these closures and order extra stock if required.

3. Ukrainian Refugees Arriving this Weekend

There will be more Ukrainian refugees arriving in Grampian this weekend. The following resources may be helpful in assisting you in treating these individuals:

- DCMO letter attached to this email contains useful information and links to services
- NHS Inform – Ukrainian translation of services and access to Language Line is available here: [A guide to NHS Scotland Services for displaced persons from Ukraine - Ukrainian | Translations \(nhsinform.scot\)](#)
- Useful Website located [here](#) for assistance around translating Ukrainian meds to UK equivalents where possible
- Pharmacy first – refugees are eligible for Pharmacy First service provision. A link to the Ukrainian version of the patient information for PFS is available [here](#)

4. Serious Shortage Protocols for HRT Products

The Scottish Government has released ten Serious Shortage Protocols (SSP's) relating to four HRT products:

- Estradiol/Oestrogel® 0.06% gel
- Estriol/Ovestin® 0.1% cream
- Estradiol/Lenzetto® 1.5mg/dose transdermal spray



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· Estradiol/Sandrena® 0.5mg and 1mg gel sachets.

Please refer to the attached guidance document for more information.

5. Pharmacy First

The PFS approved list no longer allows use of 200ml packs of cetirizine liquid (licensed from >2 years old for hay fever). The licensed age for cetirizine liquid 70ml is >6 years and for <6 years old you have the option of either chlorphenamine liquid or loratadine liquid for pharmacy first.

Eye drops - GSL packs of sodium cromoglicate are licensed from age 6 years, P packs of 10ml sodium cromoglicate however do not have any age requirements thus can be used on Pharmacy First.

6. Sexual Health Service Contacts

Professional line for pharmacist queries: 01224 655525

SHS Patient line for booking appointments: 0345 337 9900

SHS Online Booking: www.grampiansexualhealthservices.com

7. PCCT Local Services Workbook 2022-23 Version

This version of the workbook should now be sent to gram.pcctpharmacy@nhs.scot by the 7th of every month. 2022-23 Claim Workbook- [Click Here](#)

8. Patient Group Direction Extensions

Following extensions to the Trimethoprim and Fusidic Acid PGD's this week, we can confirm previous sign up's to these will remain valid until the PGD's are updated.

9. Capsaicin Cream Shortages

We are aware of intermittent challenges with the availability of capsaicin creams, which can be challenging for patients given the lack of suitable alternatives. Capsaicin cream comes in two different strengths and due to differences in licensing these cannot be used interchangeably. Where challenges with supply occur this is important to be aware of during conversations with patients/prescribers. **See attachment to this email for more information regarding both products.**

10. RPS Webinars/Events

RPS are hosting many webinars which may be of interest, including "An introduction to Trauma Informed Practice to Support People with Problematic Substance Use". You must be an RPS member to attend. For more information [click here](#).

11. MED Watch E-Newsletter

MED Watch is for all NHS Grampian staff who are involved with patients and medicines management. Attached for your information this month's issue with inclusion of MHRA Drug Safety Updates, Medicines Shared Learning Points and Steroid Emergency Cards.

Kindest regards,



Sarah Buchan

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