

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. Temporary Lunch Closures

Back in January, PCS and PCCT agreed to grant temporary lunch closures to pharmacies who wished to alleviate some of their workplace pressures. These hour-long closures were intended for a clean and sanitise, catch up on any backlog workload and allow staff a well needed break. We recognise the continued importance of these closures however we have been made aware of pharmacies all taking the same lunch hour within areas, meaning there is no pharmaceutical service provision for patients. If you do enact a closure you must liaise with neighbouring pharmacies to ensure patients always have access to a pharmacy.

Action: We now require all pharmacies who have in place a lunchtime closure to notify PCCT by email: gram.pcctpharmacy@nhs.scot

2. PCCT Workbook for Service Claims

Please find attached the revised payment claim workbook. Revision has been made to include patient initials column for MAR and Compliance Aid tabs following feedback from contractors. Formulas for various tabs have also been extended to accommodate more rows. A reminder that a previous revision was issued not long after workbook was first launched, but some pharmacies are still using the original which leaves PCCT to make corrections on a case by case basis.

Action: You must use the attached claim workbook for all future service claims.

3. Pharmacy First Scotland – Approved List Updates

The updated version of the Pharmacy First Approved List (effective 1st July 2022) is now available here: [Untitled Document \(scot.nhs.uk\)](#)

4. Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP) Information Videos

We would like to share with you a couple of short videos that have been developed to support pharmacists considering becoming a DPP. The videos contain some brief information about what is involved in the role, why individuals may wish to consider the role and signposting to other relevant information sources. These videos will be hosted on the Independent Prescribing Pages of TURAS.

Becoming a Designated Prescribing Practitioner Part 1 <https://vimeo.com/716439786>

Becoming a Designated Prescribing Practitioner Part 2 <https://vimeo.com/717472357>



5. Stock Availability & Shortages

We are aware in the last couple of weeks there has been a significant increase in drug shortage issues which continue to affect availability of some key lines e.g. alendronic acid. This has an impact on workload across the network when trying to source medication and when necessary, have an alternative prescribed.

The NHS Grampian Medicine Management and Medicine Information departments continue to work collectively to monitor and advise on medication shortages. Where a potential shortage is identified we seek to understand where the issues with supply are, and where action is required, communicate this to the relevant stakeholders. This can vary depending on medication and potential impact and when medication switching is required often engagement with secondary care specialists is required.

CPS have a formal process for reporting shortages which we would request is utilised by all contractors when potential shortages are identified. This ensures CPS can engage with the Scottish Government regarding availability and price information, on lines where price can be an issue - CPS Members Area | shortages

As a reminder the Specialist Pharmacist Service Medicine Supply Tool provides information on both current and resolved medicine supply issues (please be aware you require to register with SPS using an NHS email address to access this service).

6. Pharmacy Champion – Recruitment

We are looking to recruit some more community pharmacy practitioner champions to the team. Champions work within specific remits, defined through SG priorities and locally by each NHS Board. As a pharmacy champion you will attend one meeting per month with colleagues and will conduct specific pieces of work in agreement with the PCS team. This role would suit a proactive community pharmacist or technician, passionate about service improvement with an interest in development and project work. We would like at least one further champion to be a pharmacist independent prescriber. Other roles are also available.

Action: For more information, please email sarah.buchan3@nhs.scot

7. World Patient Safety Day

World Patient Safety Day is on the 17th September. The theme this year is Medication Safety. Every person around the world will, at some point in their life, take medications to prevent or treat illness. However, medications sometimes cause serious harm if incorrectly stored, prescribed, dispensed, administered or if monitored insufficiently. Please see attached for additional information on this and link [here](#).

Thanks for your continued hard work this week. Have a great weekend.

Kindest regards,



Sarah Buchan

Pharmaceutical Services Improvement and Development Manager



www.communitypharmacy.scot.nhs.uk

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