

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. Masks in Community Pharmacy

A plea from NHS Grampian to ensure all pharmacy staff are wearing appropriate PPE, including Fluid Resistant Surgical Masks (FRSMs). Community pharmacies are clinical areas, so whether you work in the dispensary or front shop areas, you must continue to wear a mask. PPE supplies will continue to pharmacies, so please order as you require. Thank you to all of the pharmacy teams who do continue to observe the PPE, hand hygiene and cleaning measures required to minimise transmission of infection.

We are currently experiencing a very high volume of pharmacy closures due to COVID absences, so please make sure you are doing all you can to minimise your risk of exposure both in and out of the workplace. These closures have an impact on patients, surrounding services and nearby pharmacies.

To minimise wider risk of COVID transmission, NHS Grampian staff will not enter your pharmacy for planned visits, including support, champion or CD destructions if you and your team are not wearing the appropriate PPE.

2. Pharmacy Closures & Locum Notification

This week we began sharing pharmacy closure notices received by PCCT with our registered locum pharmacists in a final attempt to cover these vacancies and prevent a pharmacy closure. We hope by using these networks we will provide some added resource and support for emergency closures due to COVID / staff sickness etc. This should not be used as routine source of locum cover, it is for emergencies only.

If you are a locum community pharmacist who has not registered with NHS Grampian, please complete the locum registration form contained within the NHSG Locum Pharmacist Pack [here](#) and return to gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot



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3. Medication Shortages & Tariff Prices

The community pharmacy network continues to experience ongoing pressures relating to medication shortages and supply issues. This impacts all healthcare providers across the NHS Grampian network. Two weeks ago in the weekly update we shared with you information regarding how NHS Grampian monitors and manages such issues. We have received several reports of instances where contractors are unable to buy in tariff medications either at or below tariff price e.g. alendronic acid 70mg tablets. There is evidence in some of these instances that as a result medication is not bought in and therefore is not available to fulfil patients' prescriptions. This is a breach of your contractual requirement under The NHS (Pharmaceutical Services) (Scotland) Regulations 2009 to supply a medication in response to a prescription in a timely manner. While this situation is frustrating for all contractors it is absolutely imperative that the care of patients remains the first concern during periods of medication shortages and as such tariff prices must not be a barrier to the procurement of medication. The first standard for pharmacy professionals in the GPhC's standards is "Pharmacy professionals must provide patient-centred care" and this should be given due consideration when managing the ordering medication.

As a reminder:

- Where stock is available (generic or branded) to fulfil a patient's prescription this should be ordered without delay.
- Where stock is not available from your standard suppliers, every effort should be made to contact alternative suppliers to procure what is required.
- Where medications cannot be accessed and all avenues checked, this should be reported to CPS via their shortage reporter.
- Part 7 of the Scottish Drug Tariff is a list of unbranded Medicinal Products & Ingredients for which a price has been agreed each month. It is intended to ensure fair and equitable reimbursement to all contractors. Part 7 is not about delivering the lowest medication price but rather supporting efficient reimbursement and remuneration to support the community pharmacy network.
- Both supply and associated pricing of medications included in part 7 are dynamic and as such it is expected that procurement of medications included will be both over and under tariff price.

In Summary

The care of patients should be of paramount importance in all community pharmacy interactions, including the supply of medication against a prescription. As such, regardless of procurement costs, community pharmacy contractors are legally required to order and supply prescribed medication without delay.

Where there is a disparity between procurement and tariff prices the appropriate processes should be followed to report this to the relevant stakeholders (as detailed above).



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4. Smoking Cessation Data - Letters

You may have read last week we suggested your quarterly smoking cessation data would be sent by email. Due to some technical issues we are continuing to send this out to you by posted letter. You should receive this next week. The next batch of data will cover October-December 2021.

5. Lyme Disease Awareness

Please find attached Lyme Disease poster for promotion. You should have already received the attached poster to display at your pharmacy. If you have not received this please contact stockorders.DPPAS@theapsgroup.com.

6. World Hepatitis Day 28th July

It's world hepatitis day on 28th July. This year the focus is on Hepatitis C. NHS will be running a series of radio adverts encouraging people to get tested, and promoting treatment for Hep C- these will be on Northsound and MFR. Attached to this email is communication material on this. Please promote within your pharmacy. More materials promoting testing and Hep C treatments can be ordered through the resources catalogue here www.nhsghpcat.org. If you have any questions about treatment or testing please contact the liver nurses on 01224 554757.

7. Indivior Pharmacy Training (will contain product information) - 27th July

Please see information on an online evening training session for Community Pharmacy staff, sponsored by Indivior.

This is a different preparation which is now on formulary in Grampian and will be an additional treatment option for patients. For more information and how to register for this evening please see attachment. The presenter for this 45 minute session will be Duncan Hill, Pharmacist IP and member of the Scottish Pharmacists in Substance Misuse.

8. Pharmacy First Scotland Disallowed Items - Update

As detailed within the CPS newsletter there continues to be an increased number of disallowed items under the Pharmacy First Scotland service. The majority of these are a result of a technical fix which led to a full enforcement of the approved list from December 2021 and these claims will not be paid. Reminder as a general rule, items should be labelled as they appear in the approved list. For more info on this click [here](#).

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

Kindest regards,



Sarah Buchan

Pharmaceutical Services Improvement and Development Manager



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