

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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Strep A Update

Please ensure all pharmacy staff review the attached information regarding Strep A infections and antibiotic liquid preparation shortages.

It is highly recommended that these attachments are printed and made available to all staff working over this weekend:

1. PHS information on Strep A infections.
2. Community pharmacy guidance for the weekend regarding OOH services (GMED) and antibiotic provision to patients.
3. Crushing guidance for pharmacy teams relating to antibiotic tablets.
4. NHS Grampian Antimicrobial Team (AMT) information.

For IPs: NES Prescribing Database

NES maintain a list of pharmacist prescribers to help with education development and workforce planning. Please update your information through the **Turas Training Management App** (which you need to download). By keeping your information up to date, NES to make you aware of the latest opportunities to support your further development. **Please follow the attached guidance and update your record by 16th December.**

If you have any questions please contact pharmacy@nes.scot.nhs.uk

Reminder: Nitrofurantoin Prescribing NOT Permitted

Each month the data analysts run a report on any non-formulary prescribing in pharmacies. Despite several emails and iterations of the Pharmacy First approved list advising of this, nitrofurantoin continues to be dispensed via some pharmacies under the Pharmacy First UTI service.

Grampian does not permit nitrofurantoin prescribing under the Pharmacy First UTI service. All pharmacists, including all locums must be informed of this. These supplies are not legal as NHS Grampian does not have a PGD for nitrofurantoin under this service.

Please ensure that this communication, the Trimethoprim PGD [Patient Group Direction For The Supply Of Trimethoprim Tablets By Community Pharmacists Under The 'Pharmacy First' Service \(scot.nhs.uk\)](#) and Pharmacy First Approved List [NHS Pharmacy First Scotland — Community Pharmacy Scotland \(cps.scot\)](#) are shared with all of your pharmacists.

Aspire Pharma Epimax Barrier Cream Incident Reporting

There have been some reports of the above product causing some ocular incidents i.e. adverse reactions to cream, corneal burns, dermatitis etc. IRIC are currently collating incidents, if you are aware of any incident similar to the above from 1st January 2019 please report this via yellow card or directly to IRIC at [link here](#).

Asthma Inhaler Recycling

Did you know the propellants used in some inhalers are powerful greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change! Even after an inhaler is finished it still contains these environmentally damaging gases.

Patients should return used inhaler canisters to their local pharmacy for safe disposal. Don't throw used inhalers into your general waste bins as they will release gases when in landfill. We have attached a poster for promotion. Please share in your pharmacy and on your social media pages.

If you receive a return please place the return in your blue clinical waste bin. If the inhaler is not fully used then it's preferable the return is placed in the purple clinical waste bin if you have one (Purple waste stream are incinerated at a higher temperature).

MedWatch December Newsletter

We have attached the latest edition of the MedWatch newsletter. This edition contains information on Drug Alerts, Medicine Allergies, Steroid Emergency Cards, Guidelines for the Management of Acute Hyperkalaemia and Information on Non-pharmacological Treatments.

Reminder: Public Health Champions

We are looking for proactive community pharmacy healthcare staff (no pharmacists allowed!) to support their pharmacy team with provision of health promotion materials and resources. This is not a time consuming role (we know you are busy!) but will assist your team and patients greatly while being a point of contact for the public health practitioners in the PCS team. In return, we will ensure you are upskilled with super resources and points of contact to make you a public health champion in your pharmacy.

If you are interested in becoming one of our public health champions in community pharmacy or want to find out more, please email Suzanne or Denise at gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot



RETURN YOUR USED INHALERS TO A PHARMACY TO HELP REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT



The propellants used in **some inhalers** are powerful greenhouse gases that contribute to **climate change**. Even after an inhaler is finished it still contains these environmentally damaging gases.

(Please be assured these gases are not harmful to you when you use your inhaler)

Return all used inhalers to your local pharmacy for safe disposal – Returned inhalers will be incinerated which will destroy the greenhouse gases and prevent inhaler plastics going to landfill



Don't throw used inhalers into your household waste or recycling bins! Landfill disposal of inhalers is harmful to the environment due to left over gases being released into the atmosphere. Plastics from inhalers cannot be recycled using domestic recycling schemes

Make each puff count! – Only order your inhaler when required to reduce waste

If you have concerns about the environmental impact of your inhaler, make an appointment with your GP practice - don't stop using your inhaler!

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The Happy Space 😊

Christmas Jumper Day!

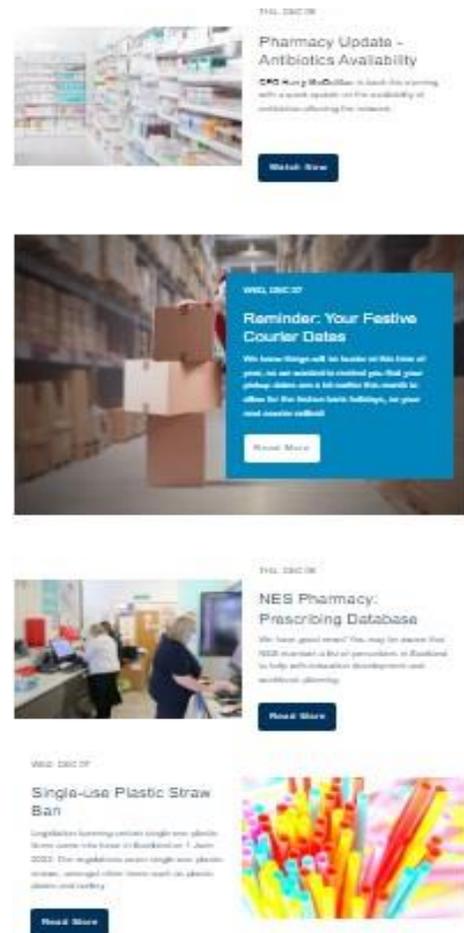
Yesterday was Christmas Jumper Day! Yesterday millions of people up and down the country were coming together at their workplace, school or with friends to raise money for the Save the Children charity. Did your pharmacy take part? Please send us photos of your staff with their festive jumpers on and we will share in next week's update!

Save the Children is a great cause who back charitable causes across the UK and abroad. If you would like to donate see [link here](#).

Overdose Prevention Vending Machine Has Stopped Hundreds of Deaths from Fentanyl in Cincinnati

A good news story all the way from America. A simple idea help a huge problem. Researchers from Cincinnati filled a vending machine with overdose prevention equipment and recorded its uses. The machine distributed a total of 3,360 naloxone doses and 10,155 fentanyl test strips from Feb-Nov 2021. The machine is credited for a reduction in drug overdose deaths and HIV incidence! Could we see something similar here in Grampian? [Read more here](#).

Community Pharmacy Scotland Newsletter Round-up



Newsletter by,

The Pharmaceutical Care Services Team,

Have a great weekend.

Missed a copy of an update? Weekly Updates are uploaded to the [CP Grampian website](#)

Username: **NHSGrampian** Password: **NHSGrampianCP2022**