

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



Contents

01: Drug Deaths

02: SAMH

03: Alcohol Awareness Quiz

04: Trusses Prescribing Info

05: Reminder: Omeprazole 20mg

06: Reminder: Public Health Champions

07: The Happy Space

- Alzheimer's drug Lecanemab hailed as momentous breakthrough
- Countdown to Christmas!

08: Community Pharmacy Scotland Newsletter Roundup

⚠ Drug Deaths

Aberdeen City ADP has circulated information below and attached highlighting an increase in suspected deaths in November. 10 cases are being investigated which is much higher than average. Please consider what your pharmacy can do to help regardless of where you are located. One thing we can all do is proactively promote naloxone and ensure we have it in stock to make supplies opportunistically.

Drug related harm continues to be a significant problem. There are lots of things that all of us, as staff, citizens and communities can do to help. The first thing is to forward this and make sure you share this information with all of your colleagues and anyone else you think can help.

There are lots of information, resources and help sheets on the following two sites:

<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Aberdeen-Protects/reducing-alcohol-and-drugs-use/preventing-drug-and-alcohol-related-deaths>

<https://www.nhsgrampian.org/your-health/healthy-living/drugs/overdose/>

Naloxone - in addition to community pharmacies, drug services and many council services can now make supplies too. Posters attached and more resources can be ordered here:

<https://www.hpac.durham.gov.uk/HPAC//BrowseBySubjectListv4.jsp?subjectIdBrowse=6&newSearch=true>

Naloxone supplies and support are also accessible online from Scottish Families Affected by Drugs (SFAD):

<https://www.sfad.org.uk/support-services/take-home-naloxone>

Benzodiazepines - often synthetic versions - continue to be a significant harm to people and you can find out a lot of information here

<https://www.crew.scot/drug/benzodiazepines/>

In Aberdeen City, the quickest and easiest way to get help is to contact Alcohol and Drugs Action: <https://www.alcoholanddrugsaction.org.uk/>

Finally there is a **DRD Prevention Toolkit** attached that includes a **Risk Matrix** which helps think about the number of factors that potentially increase risk of harm. The Risk Matrix might help you think of ways to reduce risk such as encouraging people not to use drugs alone.

If you know someone who has multiple risk factors and / or had a previous non-fatal overdose and is struggling, for the **highest risk** individuals, you can get support from the **Assertive DRD Prevention Outreach Team**. Referrals can be made by emailing gram.assertiveoutreach@nhs.scot; Alternatively there is an answer phone which referrals can be left on and these will be picked up daily, the number is 01224 557780, and we just need name, DOB and information about the reason for referral and a way to get back in touch with you.

⚠ If you have immediate concerns about an individual, they are showing signs of overdose or struggling to breathe or respond always call an ambulance.

SAMH- Ask Them about Suicide

The SAMH campaign has recently launched aiming to empower people to directly and confidently address the topic of suicide if they think someone is at risk.

You can view the campaign film and explore the web hub here: <https://www.samh.org.uk/get-involved/ask>

Campaign adverts will appear across social media, a wide range of podcasts and on TV, with the support of our partners STV. The first TV advert will premiere during this evening's Coronation Street with adverts running for a further three weeks, and will be repeated in January 2023.

Attached is a Toolkit which offers more detail on why we are running this campaign and how you can support it.

The toolkit contains:

- Context – key stats about suicide in Scotland and our campaign messages
- Planned campaign activity
- How you can support the campaign, from sharing stories to engaging on social media. This includes downloadable images for your use.

You can also help amplify the reach of Ask Them About Suicide by sharing or engaging with SAMH campaign posts on our social media channels.

Please share the video and images widely.

Thank you for supporting the campaign and helping to spread the message and if you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact us.

Alcohol Awareness Quiz and Campaign

Are you interested in finding out more about current recommendations for alcohol, finding out what your levels of drinking mean for health or promoting alcohol safety within your pharmacy? If so, this quiz from Alcohol and Drugs Action is what you are looking for!

As part of reviewing lifestyle choices, it is important that we take a moment to consider alcohol consumption: particularly as we move away from the COVID restrictions of the last few years, and now as we enter another period of difficulty with the rise in the cost of living.

We are asking anyone who consumes alcohol to check in by taking the short and anonymous quiz, and get some valuable feedback.

Foos yer booze?

TAKE THE QUIZ...
www.alcoholaberdeen.org.uk

Trusses- Prescribing Information

Please see the attached document which outlines the process for truss support prescribing. Recently we have had a lot more of these requests and the attached document will hopefully assist you with the associated responsibilities for the prescribing, measuring and dispensing of items.

If you would like any extra training around this please contact us and we will arrange a training session held by the Orthotic Lead. This will be held on teams.

Reminder: Omeprazole 20mg

You will be aware that the price of omeprazole 20mg capsules has increased significantly over the last few weeks, with an adjusted tariff price being released this week. Stock is still available in wholesalers for you to order. A reminder that you are **contractually obliged** under the NHS (Pharmaceutical Services) (Scotland) Regulations, 2009, to supply the full quantity of prescribed medication in response to a prescription, regardless of the tariff price. Any refusal to dispense a prescription due to tariff price will be considered a breach of your contract.

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GP practices should not be contacted relating to this, as it generates significant unnecessary workload when there are no actual supply issues

All shortages should continue to be reported via CPS here: [CPS Members Area | Shortage Reporter 2.0](#)

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

The Happy Space 😊

Alzheimer's drug Lecanemab hailed as momentous breakthrough

In case you missed it: **The first drug to slow the destruction of the brain in Alzheimer's has been heralded as momentous.**

The research breakthrough ends decades of failure and shows a new era of drugs to treat Alzheimer's - the most common form of dementia - is possible. Great News! If you want to read more on this BBC Article here:

[Alzheimer's drug lecanemab hailed as momentous breakthrough - BBC News](#)

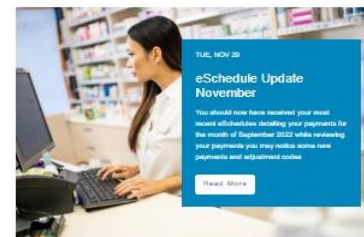
The Countdown to Christmas



The countdown is now on to Christmas! Take some time out of your Friday and get this Christmas tune blasting!

[Mariah Carey - All I Want for Christmas Is You \(Make My Wish Come True Edition\) - YouTube](#)

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**