

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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GMED Direct Referral

The GMED Direct Referral Pathway will be reintroduced from Saturday 28th January. Please refer to the letter to ensure you are informed of pathway referral options and contact details. **Please ensure all members of your pharmacy team, including any locum/relief/weekend staff, are fully informed of the referral process.**

King's Coronation

Monday 8th of May has been allocated as an additional Public Holiday to mark the Coronation of King Charles III. Please note that while the Coronation takes place on Saturday 6th May, usual opening hours will still apply on this day. PCCT have asked **ALL** Community Pharmacies to complete the below Microsoft Teams form to take note of opening hours for 2023 PH. See link below:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=veDvEDCgykuAnLXmdF5JmhFQ5LaaicFlhbr6qrHdBAtUQkU1VUZaMVI3TktYSjl4QIA2VUtJQVFXNC4u>

Accessing an Interpreter via Language Line

We have attached procedures and language line codes for Community Pharmacies. You may wish to retain these for future use. Don't know which language is spoken by the patient? See the handy A3 Language Identification Poster.

Reminder: IEP Training

We have reattached the SDF promotion flyer for the IEP training. If you plan on attending please click on the links below to register your interest:

Feb 15th 19:00-21:00:

Sign up here: <https://www.sdftraining.org.uk/ig-events/2027-injecting-equipment-provision>

Mar 13th 19:00-21:00:

Sign up here: <https://www.sdftraining.org.uk/ig-events/2028-injecting-provision-equipment>

The evening will give an overview of how to deliver needle exchange (Injecting Equipment Provision/IEP) and the key harm reduction messages/interventions that can help people who inject drugs.

There are also upcoming changes which needle exchange pharmacies need to be aware of following a retendering process by NHS Scotland national procurement - these apply to all services in Scotland. The key changes are as follows:

1. Changes to ordering processes/change of supplier for packs
2. Removal of bulk 20 packs. Use of single injecting packs
3. Change from citric acid to vitamin C

It is incredibly important that pharmacies participating in needle exchange/IEP have a workforce informed of and ready to implement these changes. We are planning to introduce these from the 1st of April.

Methylphenidate Supply Issues

Over recent months there have been several issues with supplies of prolonged-release methylphenidate, which has highlighted a need for awareness of the differences between brands, prolonged-release methylphenidate tablets and why they cannot be used inter-changeably.

The linked [Specialist Pharmacy Service document](#) (also attached) provides comprehensive information relating to the various brands of prolonged-release methylphenidate noting that **different brands of prolonged-release methylphenidate contain different compositions of immediate and extended release methylphenidate and as such cannot be used inter-changeably.**

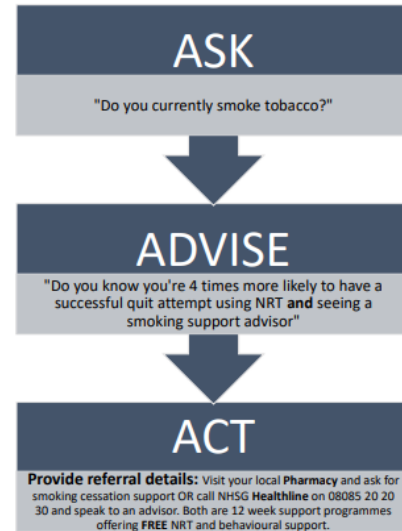
Where there is a supply issue with a particular brand of prolonged-release methylphenidate, pharmacies should ensure care is taken to advise practices (when appropriate) on an alternative brand of prolonged-release methylphenidate.

Due to variances in composition of immediate and extended release methylphenidate within prolonged-release methylphenidate products, these medicines should always be prescribed by brand name. Where a generic prescription is received, further clarification should be sought relating to the required product prior to dispensing and issue to the patient.

Health Promotion

The 3A technique

Did you know that providing **very brief advice** on stopping smoking using the 3A technique can be hugely helpful in signing people up for the smoking cessation service? You can refer to the below flowchart as a prompt. We have also attached to this email for use.



Reminder: Seeking Public Health Champions

Thank you to those who have come forward so far. As mentioned before, we are looking for non-pharmacists to take on the role as Public Health Champions, a small role, acting as a point of contact for the monthly campaigns. You can find more information [here](#) on our website health promotion page. Please have a chat with your staff and anybody interested can contact the Public Health Practitioners directly at the email addresses on the link. We're hoping to have a named person for each Pharmacy soon.

Reminder: Moray and North Aberdeenshire Pharmacy Champion Vacancies

We are currently looking to recruit community pharmacist practitioner champions for the North Aberdeenshire and Moray pharmacies. The ideal candidates will be service-focused, proactive community pharmacists or technicians. Payment of £300/day and mileage can be paid to the individuals directly or to the pharmacy contractor code for backfill.

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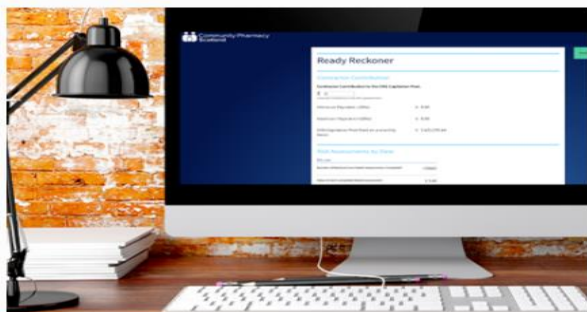
All expressions of interest or further enquiries to be received to sarah.buchan3@nhs.scot by Tuesday 31st January.

The Happy Place 😊

Lab-made alternatives developed to cut palm oil usage

Palm oil accounts for 40% of all oil usage worldwide. It is extremely popular in many industries but is accountable for environmental destruction of rainforests. Good news as a US company has developed an alternative product called Palmless. Should we drive forward with these alternatives or just cut palm oil completely? For more info [see link here.](#)

Community Pharmacy Scotland Newsletter Round-up



MCR Ready Reckoner

This week's MCR Ready Reckoner has been updated and is now available to download or you can view it via the App.

Newsletter by,

The Pharmaceutical Care Services Team,

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

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

We are aware of a log in error. If this appears press the back icon and navigate once again to section of website.

This should bypass the error