

Date: 02/02/2023
Your Ref: MMT_Tech_Efficiency_2023
Enquiries to: Medicines Management Team
Email: gram.medicinesmanagement@nhs.scot

Dear community pharmacy colleagues,

Changes to prescribing to support the delivery of cost efficiencies/cost avoidance

Summary

NHS Grampian, and the wider NHS as a whole continue to face cost pressures in the delivery of prescribed medication. The NHS Grampian Medicines Management Team, in collaboration with HSCP Lead Pharmacists and HSCP Specialist Pharmacy Technicians are undertaking a project to deliver cost effective prescribing via a dedicated central resource.

Rationale

A number of cost efficiencies have been identified by the Medicines Management Team with the potential to deliver significant savings across NHS Grampian. Ongoing workload and resource challenges can make the undertaking of such efficiencies difficult. By using a centrally dedicated Specialist Pharmacy Technician resource to undertake these tasks we aim to support practices in delivering cost effective prescribing.

Action for Community Pharmacy

The NHS Grampian Medicines Management Team alongside the NHS Grampian Primary Care Prescribing Group and HSCP Lead Pharmacists kindly request that community pharmacy are alert to these changes and where a message has been provided to a patient via their repeat slip that this is brought to their attention, alongside other appropriate counselling, when handing out medication. A short patient information leaflet is included below for use when considered appropriate. Please contact the Medicines Management department if you would like copies of these leaflets sent to your pharmacy.

Should you have any queries regarding this, please contact the NHS Grampian Medicines Management department on the details above.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully,



Associate Director of Pharmacy, NHS Grampian

This information has been prepared by the NHS Grampian Medicine Management department. As part of the Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate the Medicines Management Team consists of pharmacists, nurses, analysts and administrative support. Together we work alongside various stakeholders to support the management of clinically appropriate and cost-effective care of patients across NHS Grampian.

Changes to your medication - Patient information leaflet

As you will be aware it is becoming increasingly important that the NHS prescribes medication as efficiently as possible while ensuring maintenance of high quality patient care and safety.

NHS Grampian have requested that your GP practice update prescribing of your medications to ensure prescribing is cost effective. In doing this NHS Grampian is utilising medication which represents the best value for money for the NHS.

Please see the right hand side of your repeat slip for further details.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this change then please speak to your GP practice pharmacotherapy team.

Further information relating to GP prescribing can be accessed via NHS Inform using the following web address: <https://www.nhsinform.scot/tests-and-treatments/medicines-and-medical-aids/medicines-information/>

**NHS Grampian Medicines Management Department
Pharmacy and Medicines Directorate**