

# Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update

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## Emergency Care Summary

A reminder all community pharmacists, employed or locum, must have access to ECS for patients. This is vitally important over the weekend, evenings and on Public Holidays. If you require access to ECS, please contact us and we will provide you with an application form. If you do have ECS access but your password needs to be reset, please contact [gram.cpfacilitators@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.cpfacilitators@nhs.scot) from your NHS.scot email account.

## Power Outage Planning-Policy for Handling Vaccines and Refrigerated Pharmaceutical Products

Please see attached documentation:

- **Policy for Handling Vaccines And Refrigerated Pharmaceutical Products For All Staff Working in NHS Grampian**
- **Appendix1: Refrigerator SOP**

Please ensure all appropriate staff members are aware of, have read, understood and follow this policy.

This is particularly relevant considering the ongoing discussions regarding potential power outages.

***Robust handling of refrigerated products and monitoring of temperatures is essential in order to be able to consider medicine stability data particularly in the event of power outages/deviations from required cold chain storage temperatures.***

**Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** should be in place in all areas handling vaccines and refrigerated pharmaceutical products – a template SOP has been attached for information and to aid in this process.

**Turas Training** - NHS Grampian training module 'Management of Medicines Refrigerators' is available on Turas and via the following link: [Management of medicines refrigerators | Turas | Learn \(nhs.scot\)](#). All appropriate staff should complete the Turas training as detailed in the Policy. This module includes training on various aspects of refrigerator monitoring based on the experience of queries that have been directed to both Medicines Information and Vaccine Services. The training also guides users through how to interpret refrigerator temperature recordings, and how to respond to incidents.

The purpose of the training and the updated policy is to ensure the robustness of cold chain storage in NHS Grampian, to maintain patient safety and reducing medicines waste.

**Refrigerator Temperature Readings Procedure (Flow Chart Appendix 4)** A copy of this should be attached to each pharmaceutical refrigerator with products from ARI. This flow chart should be followed in the event of a temperature reading outwith the green flow (+2 to +8C). It is highlighted that the Vaccines Services Technician is the appropriate route of contact in relation to products supplied from Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Pharmacy Department. Community Pharmacy Secondary Care Hubs can initially

contact [Gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot](mailto:Gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot) in relation to incidents involving refrigerated medicines supplied by Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. Community Pharmacies should refer to SmPC and/or contact manufacturers directly regarding other medicines impacted by temperature excursions.

For other manufacturer products not from ARI all community pharmacies should have their own process in place.

### Delivery of Prescribing Efficiencies by Pharmacy Technicians

Please read the following information and see attachment in relation to above.

The Medicines Management Team alongside HSCP Pharmacy Technicians are currently undertaking a project to assess the potential benefit of Pharmacy Technician led prescribing efficiency work. The aim of the project is to support cost effective prescribing in line with the [Grampian Area Formulary](#).

At present, this project is being piloted within Moray HSCP and the Kincardine & Mearns cluster of Aberdeenshire HSCP (Stonehaven, Portlethen, Laurencekirk, Inverbervie & Auchenblae),

What does this mean for community pharmacy? You may see different messaging on the right-hand side of patients repeat slips, advising them of changes to the prescribing of their medication. Full details can be found on the attached letter. We kindly ask for your support in this project, by being 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 has been provided which may also be used when considered appropriate.

Any queries relating to this project should be directed to [gram.medicinesmanagement@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.medicinesmanagement@nhs.scot)

### Medication Shared Learning- Fentanyl Patch Dose Conversion

Please find attached Medication Learning on dose conversion from Fentanyl patches to oral morphine. If you have any comments about this or any similar adverse events please send them to Lindsay Cameron, Medication Safety Advisor: [Lindsay.cameron2@nhs.scot](mailto:Lindsay.cameron2@nhs.scot)

### Truss Fitting and EOI

In 2021 CPS re-negotiated the fees associated with measuring and fitting trusses for community pharmacy teams to £250 with correct endorsement. However, it has been noted in Grampian that we have very few pharmacists who are trained to actually complete this task.

We are therefore looking to create a Truss Pharmacy Network across Grampian who would ensure the provision of measuring and fitting trusses for patients. Ideally a treatment room bed in the pharmacy would be used, however, the negotiated fees would allow for home measurements and locum backfill if required.

We are looking for expressions of interest (EOI) to become part of this Truss Pharmacy Network. If you are interested please return your EOI to [gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot) by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February.

We can now offer the following training date:

### Truss Fitting Training Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 10am-12pm Woodend Seminar Room

All attendees will be reimbursed £500 to prepare and become part of this network. Please contact us if you would like to book a place to attend this training date.

### Reminder: GMED Direct Referral

The GMED Direct Referral Pathway will be reintroduced from Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> 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**

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team, including any locum/relief/weekend staff, are fully informed of the referral process.

## Reminder: King's Coronation

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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=veDvEDCgykuAnLXmdF5JmhFQ5LaaicFlhbr6qrHdBAatUQkU1VUZaMVI3TktYSjI4QIA2VUtJQVFXNC4u>

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> 19:00-21:00:**

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

**Mar 13<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> of April.

## Health Promotion

### Smoking Cessation (PCR Errors)

Please be aware that there are some continual PCR errors being noted which may affect your payments and data relating to the service.

Clients cannot be re-registered onto the smoking cessation programme in the same week. Be aware that cut off for payment is on a Thursday so please allow a week to pass before re-registering clients on PCR otherwise the record will not go through, and payment will be void. However, please support your clients to set another quit date as soon as possible

Do NOT add the Client's contact number as the Pharmacy's telephone number. If you do not have a valid telephone number for the client, please enter "UNKNOWN". A blank or a Pharmacy number will make any payment void.

Clients who have accessed the Pharmacy smoking cessation service twice already can continue with quit attempts but should be referred to Healthpoint for more intensive behavioural support.

Healthpoints – Tel 08085 20 20 30 (Monday to Friday 9am-5pm) or email [gram.healthpoint@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.healthpoint@nhs.scot)

Healthpoint – Dr Grays Hospital, Elgin: Tel 01343 567842 (Monday to Friday 9am-5pm) or email [gram.healthpointelgin@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.healthpointelgin@nhs.scot)

## 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. This is a small role, acting as a point of contact for monthly campaigns. You can find more information [here](#) on our website health promotion page. Anybody interested can contact our Public Health Practitioners directly at the email addresses on the link. We're aiming to have a named person for each Pharmacy in NHS Grampian.

## 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 will be paid to the individuals directly or to the pharmacy contractor code for backfill.

All expressions of interest or further enquiries to be received to [sarah.buchan3@nhs.scot](mailto:sarah.buchan3@nhs.scot) by Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January.

## The Happy Place 😊

### Set yourself a walking challenge!

Many of our colleagues in the PCS team are currently taking part in a step count challenge. Why don't you or your team set a similar challenge this February!

Walking is simple, free and one of the easiest ways to get more active, lose weight and become healthier. It is also great for our mental health!

Looking for a walking group? See the Grampian page of the Ramblers [website here](#).



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**