

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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Power Outages

We hope you have all stayed safe today with the strong winds across NHS Grampian. These winds are expected to continue until later this afternoon. Gusts of 60-70mph are likely, and possibly as high as 80mph for exposed coasts and hills.

Given the high number of power outages today and the lack of robust BCPs for power outages in some pharmacies, we have again shared the NHSG power outage guidance (attached) and policy for handling refrigerated products.

In addition, the NHSG Resilience Team are running two evening sessions, **specifically for community pharmacies**, on power outages and resilience planning. These are scheduled for **Tuesday 28th February** and **Thursday 2nd March 7pm – 8pm**. Please ensure at least one member of your pharmacy attends one of these sessions (they are the same live session on MS Teams so attendance at one only is required.) Click the links below to join the meetings:

Tuesday 28th 7-8pm: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Thursday 2nd 7-8pm: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Policy for Handling Vaccines and Refrigerated Pharmaceutical Products

Ensure all appropriate staff members are aware of, have read, understand and follow the attached policies:

- Policy for Handling Vaccines And Refrigerated Pharmaceutical Products For All Staff Working in NHS Grampian
- Appendix1: Refrigerator Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

NHS Grampian training module '[Management of Medicines Refrigerators](#)' is available on Turas. All appropriate staff should complete the training as detailed in the Policy.

Withdrawal of SAPG guidance on Antibiotic management of Group A Streptococcus for Children

Following discussion and agreement at the SAPG committee meeting on 7th February a decision was taken to **withdraw the SAPG guidance on “Antibiotic management of Group A Streptococcus (GAS, Strep. pyogenes) infection in children age 18 and under.”**

This decision was taken based on the following:

- Epidemiology shows levels of Group A Strep have now returned to normal seasonal levels
- Antibiotic prescribing levels are now back to levels similar to those observed in previous years
- Although the serious shortage protocol for penicillin is still active no issues are currently identified with the supply of antibiotics that would be used to treat Group A strep infections.

The SPAG website has now been updated to reflect this [Paediatric Stewardship \(sapg.scot\)](#)

The threshold for prescribing antibiotics in children with sore throats has now returned to normal as well and antibiotics should be considered (as

previously indicated) in patients with a [FeverPAIN](#) score of 4 or more.

Locally the references on the Antimicrobial Companion app to the SAPG document and the UK interim clinical guidance, and FeverPAIN score will be removed.

The [UK interim clinical guidance](#) on GAS is due to remain valid until 13th February and it is anticipated that after that date the NICE Guideline will revert back to applying to adults and children with the usual FeverPAIN scoring system.

Discontinuation of Insuman Products

Sanofi has circulated the attached letter dated Jan 2023 advising of the discontinuation of the Insuman® insulin products. Please also see the below links to the Medicines Supply Notifications:

[Discontinuation of Insuman Comb 25 cartridges and pre-filled Solostar pens – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice](#)

[Discontinuation of Insuman Basal cartridges and pre-filled Solostar pens – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice](#)

[Discontinuation of Insuman Rapid cartridges – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice](#)

Sanofi have now advised that due to unexpected capacity and component part constraints, two of the product lines will now run out of stock at the end of February – see attached letter dated Feb 2023. These are:

- Insuman® Basal 100 units/ml suspension for injection in a cartridge.
- Insuman® Comb 25 100 units/ml suspension for injection in a cartridge.

Patients currently being prescribed these products require to be switched to an appropriate alternative. Sanofi have provided the following list of GP practices which have prescribed these two product lines in the last 12 months, and the quantity prescribed. Health Boards are asked to identify patients currently receiving these Insuman products (Insuman® Basal 100 units/ml suspension for injection in a cartridge and Insuman® Comb 25 100 units/ml suspension for

injection in a cartridge) and switch to an appropriate alternative.

Note that the other Insuman products are being discontinued in line with the communications above and will run out of stock in May / June 2023.

February Pharmacy Closures

February 2023 Pharmacy Closure Report has now been uploaded to the CP Grampian site [here](#).

Reminder: Digital Prescribing and Dispensing Pathways (DPDP) Programme Event

The Digital Prescribing and Dispensing Pathway (DPDP) Programme event, scheduled to be held on Wednesday 22nd March, aims to revolutionise Scotland's prescribing and dispensing process by ultimately replacing the paper prescription, initially by developing an end-to-end digital solution for in-hours prescribing from General Practice right through to community pharmacy dispensing.

To register your interest and find out more information on this event, please [click here](#).

Reminder: Migraine Education Event

The Migraine Trust are hosting an evening session with Dr Kay Kennis, who has a special interest in migraine. The event will take place on Wednesday 22nd February from 19:30-20:30 on Zoom. If you wish to attend this session, please [click here](#) to register.

This would be a useful CPD resource for those wishing to increase their knowledge and understanding of migraine.

Public Health Promotion

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.


The Happy Place 😊

Cure and Prevention From a Surprising Ally - Our Sewers

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) creating “superbugs” is the largest threat to individual health on Earth. As many as 60% of the strains of common bacteria that live in our society are now resistant to antibiotics in some way.

Phage therapy uses bacteriophages, a kind of virus that infects, replicates in, and kills bacterial microbes. [More Info Here](#)

Community Pharmacy Scotland Newsletter Round-up



THU, FEB 16

Becoming a Designated Prescribing Practitioner - making it easy!

Are you an IP, interested in supporting others on that journey but being a DPP just seems that bit too much of a step up or a commitment? Or are you ready to go but not quite had 3 years in practice?

[Read More](#)



MON, FEB 13

PCA(P)(2023)06 - Serious Shortage Protocol for Sandrena® 500mcg and 1mg Gel Sachets

This Circular advises that three UK-wide active Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) for Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) products due to expire on 27 January 2023, have been extended.

[Read More](#)



MON, FEB 13

PCA(P)(2023)05 - Serious Shortage Protocol for Phenoxymethylpenicillin Products

This Circular advises that eight of the UK-wide Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) for Phenoxymethylpenicillin products (SSPs 040-047) due to expire on 31 January 2023 have been extended until 28 February.

[Read More](#)

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