

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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Supporting People with Advanced Cancer Webinar: 28th June 2023

Working together: How can community and hospital-based pharmacy professionals and nurses support people living with advanced cancer?

A BOPA, UKONS and Prostate Cancer UK joint [webinar](#) is being held on Wednesday 28th June 2023 from 6.30pm – 8pm. This webinar is open to all community, and secondary care nursing and pharmacy teams. The focus will be on exploring and encouraging cross sector working improve care for people living with advanced urology cancers. Please find the attached flyer for more information.

Save the Date: Virtual Prescribing Conference: 26th and 27th September 2023

Please see attached the Save the Date flyer for the upcoming Non-Medical Prescribing Virtual Conference in September. A full programme is expected to be available in early July, and further detail regarding booking of sessions (via TURAS) will also follow. This will include sessions for community pharmacist prescribers. Registration is now [OPEN](#) and any queries should be directed to gram.acateam@nhs.scot.

Management of Medication Shortages

Over the past few weeks we have begun to see the emergence of potential medication shortages. As a result, we would like to share with you the information below:

Management of Shortages

The NHS Grampian Medicines Management Team (part of the Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate) work alongside NHS Grampian Medicines Information & relevant medical specialists to provide a timely and co-ordinated approach to medication shortages and discontinuations. This often requires a significant amount of background work to understand issues and potential actions before communications can be disseminated.

Part 7 Medication Shortages

Often, when a medication included in Part 7 of the Scottish Drug Tariff (SDT) goes into short supply we see variability in the pricing of these medicines. This can result in the price at which contractors can purchase these medicines to rise, sometimes to a price higher than the SDT reimbursement price.

In such circumstances community pharmacies are kindly reminded that:

1. All shortages should be reported to CPS to allow pricing negotiations to be undertaken ([CPS Members Area | Shortages](#)).
2. Regardless of procurement price, medication should be ordered for patients without delay. Failure to order or supply medication due to the purchase price is considered a breach of contractual requirements. A significant volume of feedback is generated as a result of pharmacies having automated systems in place to cancel orders for medication above tariff price, or where pharmacies manually choose to not order medicines in this situation. This can often result in incorrect information

regarding availability coming to central teams, generating significant unnecessary workload across the system and (most importantly) impact on patients getting a timely supply of their medicines. Pharmacies are asked to be alert to this issue and ensure that all medications are ordered for patients in a timely manner, regardless of cost.

Reminder: Shortage Information

The [Specialist Pharmacist Service Medicine Supply Tool](#) provides information on current and resolved medicine supply issues. This can be accessed by community pharmacy and can provide a clear picture on known supply issues.

Are you interested in becoming a Community Pharmacist Independent Prescriber (CPIP)?

If you are interested in becoming a community pharmacist independent prescriber (CPIP) and wish to be considered for the next round of NES funding available for 2024 cohorts, please act now.

Actions required:

1. Source a designated prescribing practitioner (DPP); a prescriber working in your field who can support and mentor you through your prescribing studies.
2. Ensure you have support from your employer to undertake this course and the subsequent time in clinical practice to become a CPIP (currently 90hours).
3. Ensure you will be able to deliver a prescribing service at the end of the qualification. For pharmacy first plus, there is a requirement for the prescriber to be available for a minimum of 25 hours per week, 45 weeks of the year.

If you meet all of the above criteria, please email gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot stating your name, NHS email account, GPhC number, contractor code and DPP details. Sarah will then be in touch with you once NES confirm an allocation of funded places for Grampian and she will commence the shortlisting process.

All applications must be received to PCS account by Monday 31st July 2023 to be considered for the 2024 NES-funded IP cohorts.

Public Health Update

CLAN Cancer Support Services

Did you know that CLAN is not just for the person directly affected by cancer? Clan provides emotional and practical support to anyone affected by a cancer diagnosis, including their family, carers and friends. Their wellbeing services are tailored to ensure everyone's needs are taken care of throughout the cancer journey. Please see the attached flyer and link [here](#) for more information.

Carers Week: 5th - 11th June 2023

Carers Week, held from 5th – 11th June, is an annual campaign to raise awareness of caring, highlight the challenges unpaid carers face and recognise the contribution they make to families and communities throughout the UK. It also helps people who don't think of themselves as having caring responsibilities to identify as carers and access much-needed support.

More information is available [here](#), please share within your own communities.



The Happy Place 😊

Peanut allergies could dramatically fall if babies weaned early on peanut products

Peanut allergy could plummet by 77 percent if peanut products were added to all babies' diets at four to six months of age, according to new research led by the University of Southampton, Kings College London, and the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR).

Now, a study published in the [Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology](#) has gone even further to assess the best time to introduce the allergen into babies' diets, identifying a clear 'window of opportunity' between four and six months of age depending on the child's health.



Professor Graham Roberts said: "Over several decades, the deliberate avoidance of peanut has understandably led to parental fear of early introduction. This latest evidence shows that applying simple, low-cost, safe interventions to the whole population could be an effective preventive public health strategy that would deliver vast benefits for future generations."

If you would like to use this space in our update to say thanks to one of your team, do contact us!

Community Pharmacy Scotland Newsletter Round-up

 <p>Daffodil Standards Will your pharmacy team support best practice in palliative and end of life care?</p>	 <p>PCA(P)(2023)23 - Part 7 Reimbursement ... This Circular advises of changes to the Scottish Drug Tariff effective from 1 May 2023 in ...</p>	 <p>MCR Ready Reckoner This week's MCR Ready Reckoner has been updated and is now available to download or you ...</p>
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Newsletter by,

The Pharmaceutical Care Services Team,

All weekly updates are uploaded to the [CP Grampian website](#).

Please like our Facebook page for regular updates and information:

[Community Pharmacies Delivering NHS Grampian Services](#)



We are happy to receive all feedback and comments to improve our communications to you, please don't hesitate to get in touch on gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot