



# COMMUNITY PHARMACY LANARKSHIRE NEWSLETTER JULY 2023 EDITION 1



## HOT OFF THE PRESS.....

Welcome to the first edition of our new monthly newsletter for Community Pharmacy Lanarkshire.

This will be sent out each month, with service updates and news for the network in Lanarkshire. I hope this can also be a place where we celebrate & share good news and the good work ongoing in the pharmacy network in Lanarkshire. If you have any good news stories, or wish your team to be our “spotlight team of the month” please email myself with details.

Let’s make our Lanarkshire pharmacy network shine- Lauren ☺

**Pharmacy  
Champions  
Opportunities!**

## NEWS/OPPORTUNITIES

**Pharmacy Champions 2023** - We are looking for notes of interest for our **brand new Pharmacy Champions for 2023!** We are looking for enthusiastic community pharmacists to help support our network. This is a great paid opportunity for development and networking, likely one-two sessions per month. If you’re interested, we would love to hear from you! please contact myself on [lauren.gibson@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:lauren.gibson@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk), more information to follow soon.

**Daffodil Standards** [Daffodil Standards \(rpharms.com\)](http://rpharms.com) Please see the newly launched Daffodil Quality Improvement Standards for Community Pharmacy - part of the RPS and Marie Curie UK Community Pharmacy Standards for Palliative and End of Life Care. The standards provide a free, evidence-based framework with continuous learning and simple quality improvement steps.

**Lunch & Learn** The community pharmacy network will soon be able to access Lunch & Learn educational sessions. Information to follow.

**Research Call:** Research call for pharmacy technician participants to be interviewed: “A critical exploration of pharmacy technicians' opinions on professionalism and professional identity' please contact: [Aileen.Begley@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:Aileen.Begley@ggc.scot.nhs.uk)

## LETS CELEBRATE: GOOD NEWS STORIES



# Thank You!



NHS Lanarkshire’ Antimicrobial Management Team would like to convey sincere gratitude and thanks to all community pharmacy teams for their extraordinary efforts during the recent challenging period of December 2022 – February 2023 where UK prevalence rates of Group A Streptococcus necessitated timely, appropriate supply of antibiotic alternatives to phenoxymethylpenicillin products, particularly liquid formulations. Thank you.

## Pharmacy Team Spotlight - Boots Pharmacy Kilsyth- Celebration!

Pharmacy Technician Sandra has worked in community pharmacy in Lanarkshire for 45 years (!) in Boots Pharmacy Kilsyth, serving the local community. We thank her for her long service in community pharmacy Lanarkshire.



If you have any good news stories, or wish your own pharmacy team to be our “spotlight team of the month” please email myself with details! [lauren.gibson@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:lauren.gibson@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk)

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## PHARMACY FIRST UPDATES

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**New Pharmacy First PGDs**- There are x4 new hay fever PGDs awaiting release. Information will be cascaded when these will be released. Turas learning will be required.

**NES have updated** The NHS Pharmacy First Scotland e-learning module, which you can find on Turas Learn here: <https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/27650/pharmacy/cpd-resources/nhs-pharmacy-first-scotland>

### **UTI PGD: Nitrofurantoin: Risks of Pulmonary and Hepatic Adverse Drug Reactions**

Following the above MHRA safety alert, published in May 2023, healthcare professionals prescribing nitrofurantoin were reminded to remain vigilant for risks of pulmonary and hepatic adverse drug reactions.

Here are the key points explored within the safety update:

- ✓ Advise patients to report any new or worsening respiratory or hepatic symptoms while taking Nitrofurantoin, and to seek medical advice should these symptoms occur.
- ✓ Promptly investigate any symptoms indicative of pulmonary or hepatic adverse reactions.
- ✓ Prescribe Nitrofurantoin with caution in those with existing pulmonary disease or hepatic dysfunction.
- ✓ Pulmonary reactions may occur with short-term and long term use, where increased vigilance is required within the first week of treatment for acute pulmonary effects.
- ✓ Closely monitor patients receiving long-term treatment, who may experience new or worsening respiratory symptoms, particularly elderly patients.
- ✓ Discontinue Nitrofurantoin immediately, in the event of new or worsening pulmonary damage.
- ✓ Be aware of signs and symptoms of hepatic dysfunction in patients taking Nitrofurantoin for any duration, but especially in long-term use patients.
- ✓ Patients should be monitored periodically for signs of hepatitis and for changes in biochemical tests which could indicate hepatitis or liver injury.
- ✓ Report any suspected adverse drug reactions to the Yellow Card Scheme where appropriate

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## PHARMACY FIRST PLUS + UPDATES

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**Process for starting the Pharmacy First PLUS service** – Notice of starting the Pharmacy First PLUS service and requests for pads should be emailed to Isobel Marshall [isobel.marshall@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:isobel.marshall@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk). You will be sent 3 forms to fill in and return. You must also register with NSS nationally to get paid for the service, as this is paid nationally and not locally (PCA (P) 2020 16- form Annex B) [Primary and Community Care Directorate \(scot.nhs.uk\)](https://www.scot.nhs.uk/primary-and-community-care-directorate)).

**Pharmacy First PLUS Peer Review Network** – Please join our CP IP peer review if you have not already done so, we aim to meet quarterly to share cases, provide support, and host educational sessions. We had our June meeting with Maxine McCabe, Pharmacist Parkhead Pharmacy in Glasgow, as our guest speaker to chat around how she got started. We plan to meet again in September, with a guest speaker hopefully in the works!

**Controlled Drugs** – A reminder for CP IPs to direct patients requiring emergency access to controlled drugs to the most appropriate service to do this, with Pharmacy First Plus not the approved route for this. Thank you.

**Teach & Treat CCC IP legacy places available** – There are still places available for Lanarkshire IP pharmacists to access pharmacy first plus teach and treat hubs, a great chance to develop your prescribing competency. Please contact Lauren for details.

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## CLINICAL SERVICE UPDATES

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**Addiction Services** – The new communications tool from the NEO 360 system will be active from the 3rd July. Please see recent cascade within email: items communicated to community pharmacies week commencing 19th June 2023.

**OOH** – There is a new update to the Unscheduled Care PGD (V30) This will be cascaded and Community Pharmacy Scotland website should be updated soon.

**IT/Digital** – There is a Clinical Portal access pilot due to launch for those providing First Plus services in Lanarkshire. Details to follow.

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## SHORTAGES UPDATE

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**Medicines shortages general guidance**: Shortages continue to be an issue placing a significant burden on community pharmacy and primary care teams appreciate your ongoing support with these. Teams can access Community Pharmacy Scotland's Medicines Shortages Guidance (<https://www.cps.scot/drugtariff/shortages-information>) which provides comprehensive guidance on what action to take in the event of medicines shortages. To keep up to date with current serious supply protocols, <https://www.cps.scot/drugtariff/ssp> and <https://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/> (search for MSAN.)

In the instance that alternative options have been exhausted, the prescriber should be contacted for further advice. Please be aware, prescribers' access to information on availability of medicines may be limited, so it would generally be helpful to also advise which alternatives are currently available.

**Rybelsus shortage information for Community pharmacies**: There is a national shortage of Rybelsus tablets (type 2 diabetic medication) currently. To help mitigate this, we would ask community pharmacies to consider rationalising their supply of Rybelsus to their patients as much as possible, for example consider dispensing 2 weeks supply at one time per patient. We would also encourage communication of current and anticipated stock levels/issues of this with your fellow community pharmacies, local GP practice and practice pharmacists. When any more information becomes available we will endeavour to share this with you.

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## CONTACTS

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NHS Lanarkshire Community Pharmacy Website: [NHS Community Pharmacy Website \(scot.nhs.uk\)](https://www.scot.nhs.uk/community-pharmacy/)