

# Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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## COVID-19 Treatment (Antiviral) Service – Change of Telephone Number

This is a reminder that the telephone number for the COVID-19 treatment service for those in the highest risk groups has changed, effective from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023. The new number is **01224 556527**, where you will be able to leave contact details to receive a call back from one of the NHS Grampian Team. This phone number **IS NOT** for urgent medical advice, general health enquiries or vaccination. You are **ONLY** eligible to be assessed for treatment if all of the following apply:

- You are aged 12 or over
- You have symptoms of coronavirus that started in the last 5 days that **aren't getting better**
- You are in a group who are deemed to be at **highest risk** of getting seriously ill from coronavirus
- You have **tested positive** for coronavirus

Details of the conditions or treatments that make someone high risk and eligible are available on the [NHS Inform website](#).

## Migraine Management in Pharmacy Training Events

Thanks to all who have attended the Migraine Management for the Pharmacy Team training events to date. So far, there have been 33 attendees with great feedback. There are two more sessions running via MS Teams on 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> September. These sessions are delivered by two headache experts, Dr Callum Duncan (Consultant Neurologist) and Dr David Watson (GP with Special Interest) and cover migraine diagnosis, common myths and misconceptions and migraine management in line with the soon to be launched National Headache Pathway. If you are interested in attending, or wish to have access to a recording of the training, please contact: [gram.transformationteam@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.transformationteam@nhs.scot)

## Stoma Appliances

### Requests from patients to prescribe stoma garments (stoma underwear)

We have been made aware of a recent local stoma event which may result in an increase in patient requests to prescribe stoma garments (underwear) via NHS prescription.

Practice teams are reminded that within the current NHS Grampian Guidance: [Prescribing & Dispensing of Stoma Appliances](#) stoma underwear is **not recommended** for prescribing. As such, if a request for prescribing of stoma garments/underwear is received from a patient it should be declined.

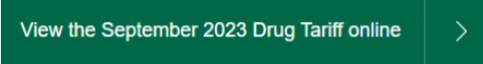
In addition, a gentle reminder that any changes to a patient's stoma appliance prescribing should not be undertaken without instruction from a stoma specialist nurse - requests from stoma contractors or manufacturers should be declined.

## Changes to how Stoma Scottish Drug Tariff (SDT) is accessed

Previously 'Part 6' of the SDT contained a list of prescribable stoma appliances. Changes in the management of prescribable stoma appliances means that 'Part 6' of the SDT no longer lists the prescribable items in NHS Scotland. There is a new process to check if a stoma appliance is allowed on a prescription.

New process:

1. Access [NSS page](#) and click link to 'Please see the latest tariff' which will take you to nhsbas landing page (English tariff)
2. Click into view [tariff](#) (image below)



3. Scroll to 'Part IXC' [Stoma Appliances](#) and click to access. **This provides list of everything that is allowable on prescription in England - this must be cross-checked with a list of Scottish exemptions (see point 4 and 5 below).**
4. If an item is listed within Part IXC then it should be cross-checked to ensure it is allowable in Scotland. To do this access the [exceptions list](#) (this is a list of non-reimbursable NHS Scotland items).
5. If the product is on exception list, it is **not** allowable on prescription in NHS Scotland.

## Scabies – Management in Community Settings

In May this year NHS Grampian Health Protection updated their guidance in relation to the management of scabies. Noting that the use of ivermectin (unlicensed) should only be prescribed following advice from a consultant dermatologist and NHS Grampian Health Protection team. As a reminder, if a scabies breakout (e.g. in care home) is identified via GP practice, NHS Grampian Health Protection Teams should be made aware without delay. Please find the attached guidance for further information.

## Special Formulation and Unlicensed Products in Primary Care

The "Special Formulation and Unlicensed Products in Primary Care – A Guide for Pharmacists Working within NHS Grampian" has been updated. Find the attached letter along with the pre-authorized list and specials guidance for more information.

## September Medwatch Newsletter

We have attached the latest edition of the MedWatch newsletter. The September edition contains information on Alerts and shared learning, new or updated Medicines Policies and Parkinson's "Get It On Time".

## Public Health Update

### Sepsis Awareness Month

September is [Sepsis Awareness Month](#). Do you know the key symptoms of sepsis? Find the attached poster for easy reference of the key symptoms. Please share this poster wider for awareness of the key symptoms, helping to save lives and improve outcomes for sepsis patients. An adult or older child may have any (but not all) symptoms of sepsis.



### World Suicide Prevention Day

World Suicide Prevention Day takes place on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September. Every year, organisations and communities around the world come together to raise awareness of how they can create a world where fewer people die by suicide. Please promote and share the link below on your own social media pages. For more information, please [click here](#).



## 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> September is Organ Donation Week!

It's an important subject for us all in healthcare to share widely in our communities. Why not get some posters to put up in your pharmacy? For more information, please [click here](#).



## Community Pharmacy Scotland Newsletter Round-Up

### User Testing With Members and Their Teams

Participate in a 15-Minute One-on-One In-Depth Research Interview for Testing the New Community Pharmacy Scotland Website...

[Read More](#)



[Read More](#)



### PCA(P)(2023)32 - SSP for Issued for Utrogestan®

This Circular advises community pharmacy contractors that the UK-wide active Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) for Utrogestan® (micronised progesterone) 100mg capsules, a hormone replacement therapy...

[Read More](#)

## The Happy Place 😊

### Trainee Pharmacist of the Year Award

This week, we wish to share our congratulations to Greg Buchan who was awarded the Trainee Pharmacist of the Year, at the C+D Awards on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September! Greg recently completed his foundation year with Dawn Ferguson at Summerhill Pharmacy and impressed the panel with his initiatives to support local patients; undertaking additional learning in suicide prevention, sexual health and integrated drug services, as well as being proactive in our North of Scotland early detection of cancer project and initiating a text service for updates and annual MCR reviews. It is apparent that Greg has really made every opportunity count during his training year and has had an excellent supervisor in Dawn. Well done Greg!

### Smoking Cessation Patient Feedback

We also wish to congratulate the staff at Cullen Pharmacy, who have received excellent feedback on the Smoking Cessation service from a patient. The gentleman was very happy with the opportunity to access the Stop Smoking Service from home with really helpful staff, has now quit smoking having smoked for a good number of years and is delighted!

***If you would like to use this section to say thanks to one of your team, do contact us!***

*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](mailto:gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot)