



COMMUNITY PHARMACY LANARKSHIRE

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023 EDITION 4



NEWS/OPPORTUNITIES

Our October newsletter is a busy one for community pharmacy updates & news, please take a look at the news and hot topics below...

November Network Update evening: Online Evening Update Event- Wednesday 1st November 7pm 2023

We are hosting an online Community Pharmacy Lanarkshire Network Update event, on Wednesday 1st November at 7pm. This will be a chance to get updates and ask questions, delivered by our new Pharmacy Champions, on key service delivery points, including digital, ECS, PGDs, and advice for planning & preparing for winter. We would encourage all community pharmacy teams to attend online. A link will be circulated to your clinical mailbox. We look forward to seeing you then.

Recognising Sepsis & Red Flags Lunch & Learn Session: October 25th 1pm over teams: We are delighted to have an A&E Consultant guest speaker come to our October IP Peer Review session, to provide a session on recognising Sepsis & Red Flags. This will be held on October 25th @ 1pm over teams. I would encourage all pharmacy first plus providers to attend this important education session- if you are not already on the peer review group, please email Lauren on lauren.gibson@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk to be added.

Naloxone Emergency Supply: webinars and service spec: The Scottish Government and Community Pharmacy Scotland have agreed that a new national service will be implemented to provide emergency access to supplies of naloxone. The service is due to start on 30 October 2023 and pharmacy teams are asked to familiarise themselves with the arrangements which are detailed in this circular: [https://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/pca/PCA2023\(P\)34.pdf](https://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/pca/PCA2023(P)34.pdf). There is eLearning and webinars to support this as follows:

Community pharmacy teams should ensure that pharmacy teams complete the e-learning module for naloxone emergency supply, now available on the NES TURAS Learn website at: <https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/70968/>. In addition, webinars to support the implementation of the service will be held on Wednesday 4 October and Tuesday 14 November at 19:30. Details of how to register can be found at <https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/70968/>. The webinar will be recorded and the recording made available.

Claims summary sheet: A new summary sheet has been developed which summaries your claim schedule dates and contacts for pharmacy services you provide, this can be accessed on CP Lanarkshire website under claims process : [NHS Community Pharmacy Website \(scot.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

PC70 - Instalment/Supervised Doses Dispensing Claim Form: Please be aware that this PC70 form will change colour from purple to white. Please exhaust any existing stocks of the purple form in the first instance.

Winter Planning: Winter planning has begun in NHS Lanarkshire, and we will seek responses on opening and public holiday cover over the festive period from community pharmacy – which will be circulated imminently.

Reminder of ULM/Specials Process: The process for specials authorisation is now live on CP Lanarkshire website [NHS Community Pharmacy Website \(scot.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk) please ensure you are familiar with this process.

The “Detect Cancer Earlier Campaign” is due to run in community pharmacies as the next Public Health Scotland campaign. Pharmacies should receive posters and are asked to display them until 22nd October. Existing posters should continue to be displayed until the new campaign arrives in the post.

Covid Vaccinations for Community Pharmacy Staff- A reminder that community pharmacy staff are eligible for NHS Staff Covid Vaccinations. Please ensure you book ahead on www.nhsinform.scot/wintervaccines booking platform and bring any credible proof such as a wage slip or a name badge worn on duty with you to your appointment. Thank you.

ADHD medication -A National Patient Safety Alert was published on 27th September 2023, regarding the widespread national issues with supply of ADHD medication, impacting some preparations of methylphenidate, lisdexamfetamine, atomoxetine and guanfacine. The supply disruption of these products is caused by a combination of manufacturing issues and an increased global demand. Other ADHD products remain available but are in limited supply and therefore cannot meet excessive increases in demand. At present, the supply disruptions are expected to resolve at various dates between October 2023 and early 2024. A detailed advice memo is attached to the end of this newsletter. Thank you.

LETS CELEBRATE: GOOD NEWS STORIES



We are delighted to announce our 6 new
Community Pharmacy Champions for the network
in Lanarkshire in 2023.



Our Pharmacy Champions Vision & Mission is for all community pharmacies to deliver community pharmacy services consistently, equitably, safely & effectively for the population of Lanarkshire.

We have 6 new Pharmacy Champions to support this as follows...

- **Rebecca Cowie**- Previous Champion and experienced Community Pharmacist (Locum)
- **Alexandra Thurlow** – Previous Champion, Public Health Pharmacist & Smoking Cessation Champion
- **Heather Donaldson**- Previous Champion, experienced Community Pharmacist (Boots) & Smoking Cessation Champion
- **Matthew Hayley**- Experienced Community Pharmacist (Mint Pharmacy)
- **Hayley Henderson**- Experienced Community Pharmacist (M&D Green Pharmacy)
- **Hammad Khalid**- Experienced Community Pharmacist & Contractor (First Point Pharmacy)

Details of the work champions will do, and their pharmacy allocations can be found on CP Lanarkshire Website, please check and see your champion allocation at [NHS Community Pharmacy Website \(scot.nhs.uk\)](http://NHS Community Pharmacy Website (scot.nhs.uk))

PHARMACY FIRST UPDATES


PGD Updates on CP Lanarkshire Website: Please note the ongoing refresh of CP Lanarkshire’s website, with updating of Pharmacy First PGDs can be found at [NHS Community Pharmacy Website \(scot.nhs.uk\)](http://NHS Community Pharmacy Website (scot.nhs.uk)) .

PHARMACY FIRST PLUS + UPDATES

NES Funded IP Places: Many thanks to all the high standard applications for the NES funded IP places. The deadline for this has now passed and we can unfortunately not accept any further applications. We are very encouraged to see the enthusiasm from community pharmacy to train as independent prescribers and to develop the clinical service. Successful applicants will be notified in due course.

CLINICAL SERVICE UPDATES

Addiction Services: Please be aware of the new national emergency naloxone service, as detailed above.

Smoking Cessation: - NHS Lanarkshire's Quit Your Way – a reminder that training sessions are now available, please see  website for times and details. A mix of evening, online, and day sessions are available. [NHS Community Pharmacy Website \(scot.nhs.uk\)](https://www.scot.nhs.uk) We would encourage teams to attend. Thank you.

Palliative Care Please be aware, there is now an updated Palliative Care Network Leaflet available, due to changes in opening hours and ownership in the pharmacy network. This leaflet can be found on the website [NHS Community Pharmacy Website \(scot.nhs.uk\)](https://www.scot.nhs.uk)

IT/Digital - A gentle reminder that as we approach winter, for teams to ensure key staff members and weekend staff have access to ECS and clinical mailboxes, and that there are processes in place to regularly check their clinical mailboxes. If there are any issues with either of these, please contact NHSLanarkshire.PharmacyFacilitation@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk for support.

ULM/SPECIALS PROCESS REMINDER

If you receive a prescription for a ULM, please consider the following steps- Double check, Is the product

- Licensed (e.g. check BNF, or check MHRA products list)?
- Listed in Scottish Drug Tariff Part 7S or 7U?
- Available from UK NHS Manufacturing Site (e.g. Tayside)?

If YES to any above– authorisation not required, If NO- Please follow the ULM flowchart process attached and detailed below- All ULMs must be authorised by the board via the form below- Please complete all sections of the form attached – To guarantee encryption, completed forms must be emailed from your clinical mailbox to: ulmrequest@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

Once the form is received, the prescribing team will double check: Is the product licensed? Can it be switched to alternative licensed product? Can it be switched to alternative off-label product? Is the product listed in Scottish Drug Tariff Part 7S or 7U? Is the product available from an NHS Manufacturing Site? If so, these details will be advised back to the requesting community pharmacy.

If not, and there is no alternative product clinically appropriate available, the board will authorise the product at the cost it has evidence of availability of, at that current price, and detail the above supplier at that cost; the pharmacy may choose what supplier to source the product from, but will only be reimbursed at the stated cost.

This authorisation at the stated cost will remain for 12 months, unless communicated otherwise. Prices will be authorised up to 20% over this stated price during this 12 month period. Anything over this price will be clawed back

Clawbacks- The prescribing team will check and clawback any ULM costs that differ from the above. The pharmacies will be contacted and made aware of this. Clawback checks normally run 3 months in arrears.

CONTACTS

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ADHD Medication Shortages MEMO 3/10/23

To: NHSL Community Pharmacy Services

From: NHSL Mental Health Pharmacy Team & Lauren Gibson, Lead Pharmacist for Community Pharmacy Services

Date: 3rd October 2023

Subject: **SHORTAGE OF METHYLPHENIDATE PROLONGED-RELEASE CAPSULES AND TABLETS, LISDEXAMFETAMINE CAPSULES, ATOMOXETINE CAPSULES AND GUANFACINE PROLONGED-RELEASE TABLETS**

A National Patient Safety Alert was published on 27th September 2023, regarding the widespread national issues with supply of ADHD medication, impacting some preparations of methylphenidate, lisdexamfetamine, atomoxetine and guanfacine. The supply disruption of these products is caused by a combination of manufacturing issues and an increased global demand. Other ADHD products remain available but are in limited supply and therefore cannot meet excessive increases in demand. At present, the supply disruptions are expected to resolve at various dates between October 2023 and early 2024.

In the first instance, it is recommended that where patients are unable to obtain a supply from their regular pharmacy, they try alternative pharmacies, that may have residual stock. All prescribing within NHSL Mental Health and Learning Disability Outpatient Services is made via request to GP Practices to generate a GP10. Therefore, no prescriptions are generated directly within the ADHD specialist services. If a change is required to prescription details (e.g. strength, formulation, brand name), this should be communicated with the prescriber. The specialist service should only be contacted with specific clinical queries.

It is not a requirement on any community pharmacists to make clinical decisions on stopping/switching medications, however, the following information provides further helpful guidance in relation to potential appropriate changes:

Stimulant medication (e.g. methylphenidate and lisdexamfetamine(Elvance))

Can be safely stopped and started with no adverse effects to the patient. It is therefore recommended, where appropriate, that patients only take this medication on days required e.g. for school, college, university, work. This is only an appropriate recommendation for stimulant medications.

If a particular strength is not available, every effort should be made to obtain different strengths to make up the dose (e.g. 20mg and 30mg capsules instead of a 50mg capsule). As stimulant medications are Schedule 2 Controlled Drugs, any changes require a new prescription. Any new prescription request should be made directly to the primary care prescriber. The patient/family or the specialist service do not need to be involved in this request.

Please note that lisdexamfetamine adult preparations only differ in that the PIL wording is aimed at adult patients.

Methylphenidate modified release, 12 hour preparations, can be prescribed generically to allow available brands to be dispensed. NHS formulary choice is Xenidate XL, however, any of the following brands can be used instead: Concerta XL, Matoride XL, Delmosart and Xaggitin XL. Any new prescription request should be made directly with primary care prescriber. The specialist service do not need to be involved in this request.

Methylphenidate modified release, 8 hour preparations, should only be prescribed by brand due to differences in release profile. These include Equasym XL and Medikinet XL.

Guanfacine (Intuniv)

Should not be stopped abruptly due to risk of rebound hypertension. A safe dose reduction is by 1mg every three days (must seek GP direction). If a particular strength is not available, every effort should be made to obtain different strengths to make up the dose (e.g. 1mg and 2mg tablets instead of a 3mg tablet). Guanfacine is not a Controlled Drug, therefore a new prescription is not required for any reasonable changes. If no strengths are available, the specialist service can be contacted for clinical advice.

Atomoxetine

Supplies have been an issue for a while but look to be resolved by end of October 2023. Atomoxetine can be stopped abruptly, with no adverse effects, if a patient runs out of supply.

Expected resupply dates

Information regarding expected resupply dates is likely to change and any updates will be cascaded to you.

Further information can be found at the following links:



NatPSA_2023_011_S
hortage of ADHD mec

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/home/tools/medicines-supply-tool/> - free registration required

[handyfactsheetadhdformsuk.pdf \(choiceandmedication.org\)](https://www.choiceandmedication.org/handyfactsheetadhdformsuk.pdf)