

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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G-OPES Update

Primary Care Contracts are changing the way G-OPES is updated. Rather than PCCT manually entering the Primary Care score overall from information received, you can now input your own pharmacy G-OPES level directly. This also means that community pharmacy will appear as a unique identity on the G-OPES scoreboard so much more visible, which can only be a good thing. You can do this anytime through the week.

From **Monday 9th October** please ensure someone from your pharmacy inputs your G-OPES level as per the instructions below:

1. Go to unique URL which you will be supplied separately in an email from PCCT
2. Click All Areas coded from this link
3. Select service and appropriate level
4. Password = GrampianOPES21
5. Complete form and click Submit. You'll need to record some text in the rationale box, but this can just be L2 etc.

Please see the below link to the guidance on how to decide your level:

<https://scottish.sharepoint.com/sites/NHSGrampianOPES/SitePages/OPES---Level-Descriptions.aspx>

RADAR Update on Public Health Intelligence

Over the last few months, RADAR have seen an increase in harm across indicators, including naloxone incidents, A&E attendances and drug-related hospital admissions. RADAR has also received an increasing number of concerns from local areas.

RADAR are undertaking enhanced surveillance to further understand these changes. Help to inform the response and prevent drug harms by [reporting concerns from your area](#).

The main picture of harm continues to be poly-drug use involving benzos, stimulants and opioids. New potent substances are becoming more common and we're closely assessing the emergence of novel synthetic drugs. There are two current alerts for drugs that pose a high risk of overdose:

- [new benzodiazepines – bromazolam](#)
- [nitazene-type opioids](#)

Harm reduction advice, including info on how to access the drug testing service [WEDINOS](#), is available on [NHS inform: Drugs and drug use](#).

Overdose prevention

- Share reminders of the signs of an overdose and the importance of getting help in an emergency.
- [Stop the Deaths](#) (SDF)
- [Respond to an overdose](#) (CREW)
- [Overdose prevention](#) (International Overdose Awareness Day)
- Provide people with naloxone and offer refresher training.
- Naloxone reverses opioid overdoses but high potency substances, like nitazenes, might require multiple doses. Doses should be administered one at a time, waiting 2–3 mins between each dose while watching for a response.

Naloxone Session Feedback – 4th October 2023

Great to see so many NHS Grampian attendees at the NES naloxone webinar on Wednesday evening. A reminder this session will be repeated on 14th November, so please register your interest on TURAS to book a place.

It was noted some confusion has arisen in some pharmacies locally, regarding the difference between the national emergency supply of naloxone and our local take home naloxone (THN) SLA. A summary is detailed below which we hope clears up any misunderstanding:

National Naloxone SLA

- Mandatory for all pharmacies in Scotland, regardless of SUS provision
- Supply and claims for stock will be via Naloxone UCF tab, which will go live on 30th October

Local Take Home Naloxone SLA

- Mandatory for all SUS Level 1 pharmacies
- Supplies recorded on NEO360
- No claim fee for level 1 SUS users as this is incorporated into the SUS Level 1 payments.
- Claims for non-level 1 SUS users via PCCT monthly claims workbook.

Naloxone TURAS Module

Work is underway at NES to fix issues of accessing training modules on TURAS. In the meantime, for those looking to access the Naloxone training, this can be accessed via the Scottish Drug Forum website [here](#).

NHS Grampian Travel Health Service Updates

Level 4 specialist contact: We now have an interim immunisation coordinator who will support you with complex patient queries. Please email gram.vaccineenquiries@nhs.scot if you require assistance.

Gluten Free Food Service

Please note the product list for NHS Grampian's Gluten Free Food Service has now been updated following a number of reported errors. This is a great resource which has a number of product images included, to minimise risk of incorrect product ordered and only lists items on our Grampian GFF Formulary. The webpage is publically available here: <https://www.scotlandglutenfree.org.uk/>

Please remind patients to enter the postcode of their supplying pharmacy, not their home post code, to gain access!

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NHS Grampian Working Health Service

Working Health Service is a free and confidential service to support people who are self-employed or employed in small and medium sized companies (Under 250 employees). They provide rapid access to assessment, advice and when appropriate referral and prompt access to interventions such as Physiotherapy, Podiatry and Talking Therapies. This service is proven effective in reducing absence from work and supporting people to remain at work. Please find the attached document for more information. To self-refer email gram.whss@nhs.scot or call 0800 019 2211.

Improving Migraine Management in NHS Grampian

In conjunction with The Migraine Trust, NHS Grampian have developed an eLearning module on Migraine Management. Aimed at all pharmacy team members, it includes valuable learning for other clinicians. It is available to registered Turas users and can be found [here](#).

ADHD Medication Shortages

As you will likely be aware, we are experiencing significant and widespread supply issues with various ADHD medications (details in table below.) This is a result of both manufacturing issues and increased global demand and at present is affecting the following medications.

Impacts are being felt across Primary and Secondary care, with these shortages generating significant unplanned workload. The NHS Grampian Medicines Management Department, alongside CAHMS, CCH and Adult Mental Health Specialties have worked to produce the attached guidance for community pharmacy, primary care and secondary care specialists to support in the management of these issues.

Current ADHD medicine supply issues:

Methylphenidate	Lisdexamfetamine	Guanfacine
Equasym XL® 10, 20, and 30mg capsules	Elvanse®20, 30, 40, 50, 60 and 70mg capsules	Intuniv® 1, 2, 3 and 4mg prolonged-release tablets
Xaggitin XL®18 and 36mg prolonged-release tablets	Elvanse® Adult 30, 50 and 70mg capsules	
Concerta XL®54mg prolonged-release tablets		
Xenidate XL®27mg prolonged-release tablets		

While, at present, other ADHD medications currently remain available, stocks are **not sufficient** to meet the increased demand caused by other shortages. Therefore, there is the potential for other ADHD medications to be impacted by this disruption. The Medicines Management Department will continue to monitor this and provide further updates should information change in relation to availabilities. Supply disruption is expected to resolve at various dates between October 2023 and December 2023 (full details in attachments).

Actions to be taken by community pharmacies, primary care teams and specialist services for each of the affected medications are outlined in four separate documents.

Buccal Midazolam Preparations for Prescribing in Paediatrics

Recently some new preparations of buccal midazolam have become available for prescribing in children as rescue treatment for status epilepticus. The purpose of this memo is to highlight which preparations are recommended locally:

- **Epistatus® oromucosal solution pre-filled syringes (2.5mg, 5mg, 7.5mg and 10mg strengths) -** These pre-filled syringes have recently become licensed in a variety of different strengths for children aged 3 months to less than 18 years and are now the firstline formulation choice for prescribing buccal midazolam in children locally. Patients should not be switched to pre-filled syringes until the required training has been provided by the epilepsy specialist nurse.
- **Epistatus® 10mg/mL oromucosal solution (5mL bottle) –** This unlicensed product is available as a multi dose bottle and may still be prescribed for certain patients under the direction of the paediatric epilepsy service if a pre-filled syringe is not felt to be appropriate. When prescribing, please tick the 'specials' box on the Vision prescribing screen.
- **Buccolam® oromucosal solution pre-filled syringes –** This brand of pre-filled syringes is not recommended for use within NHS Grampian and should not be routinely prescribed locally.

Within paediatrics, a dose of 0.3mg per kg is used for buccal midazolam (maximum 10mg per dose), as per Scottish Paediatric Epilepsy Network recommendations. Please note that this dosing differs from the age based dose banding suggested in the BNF for Children.

If you are unsure which preparation a child should be prescribed, please get in touch with the epilepsy specialist nurse who will be able to confirm: gram.rachepilepsynurse@nhs.scot.

Suboxone Sublingual Tablets

There have been reports of difficulty obtaining suboxone sublingual tablets from wholesalers. The manufacturer has advised that there is NOT a manufacturing issue and there should be stock available. If showing out of stock in online portals then you should be able to obtain it by calling AAH as Glasgow branch have confirmed stock is available. Due to the issue it may also be worth reviewing your stock levels to ensure that you have adequate stock to cover any delays in obtaining.

Smoking Cessation Update

Smoking Cessation Training Update

To support community pharmacy teams to deliver the NHS Smoking cessation service in community pharmacy, NES are hosting a webinar to provide an update on the service and current developments for the service. The webinar is running on Tuesday 24th October from 7:30 to 9pm which can be booked on Turas learn: <https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/71263>.

Public Health Update

Sober October

Who is keen to go sober this October? Sober October encourages people to go alcohol-free in October to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. If you're interested, more information is available [here](#). Please be reminded of the TRYDRY App which was launched recently and is great for tracking your drinking habits and more!

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Along with the #earlybird campaign, this month is also breast cancer awareness month. The focus this year is on raising awareness around secondary breast cancer. There are an estimated 61,000 people in the UK who have been diagnosed with secondary breast cancer. More information is available [here](#). You can get involved by "going pink", details [here](#).

Please share information on your own social media pages.



Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



PCA(P)(2023)36 - SSP for Issued for Clarithromycin

This Circular advises community pharmacy contractors that two of the UK-wide Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) for Clarithromycin antibiotic products due to expire on 29 September 2023 have now been extended...

[Read More](#)



THU, OCT 05
Naloxone Training for Pharmacy Team Members
The Naloxone Service launches on October 20th 2023 and requires that all pharmacy team members complete the training.

[Read More](#)

EHC and Bridging Contraception Feedback Survey

The Scottish Government is inviting community pharmacy teams to share their feedback on the Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) and Bridging contraception services, which are being reviewed...

[Read More](#)



The Happy Place 😊

World Mental Health Day – 10th October 2023

Every year we celebrate World Mental Health Day on 10th October. The theme for 2023, set by the World Foundation of Mental Health, is 'Mental health is a universal human right'. World Mental Health Day is about raising awareness of mental health and driving positive change for everyone's mental health. It's also a chance to [talk about mental health](#), how we need to look after it, and how important it is to get help if you are struggling. Come together with friends, families or colleagues this World Mental Health Day, by holding a [Tea & Talk!](#)



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