

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update

Issue #194
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Contents

01: Area Pharmaceutical Committee

02: Language Line

03: People Seeking Asylum

04: Specialist Pharmacy Service: Refrigerated Medicines Tool

05: Festive Public Holidays CP Opening Times

06: Asthma and COPD Studies – Pharmacies Wanted

07: Liraglutide and Semaglutide for Weight Management

08: Public Health Update:

- Financial Support
- World Aids Day 2023

09: Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up

10: The Happy Place 😊

Area Pharmaceutical Committee (APC)

NHS Grampian's Area Pharmaceutical Committee (APC) provides advice to NHS Grampian's Board. A key objective of the APC is to ensure engagement of the pharmacy profession in clinical and service development. This forum enables practising frontline pharmacists and technicians to influence the contribution of the pharmacy profession and to work with other professionals to provide safe, effective and integrated healthcare to the people of Grampian. The APC is made up of a number of representatives from all sectors of pharmacy in Grampian. The pharmacy contractors currently elected to the APC are:

- Samantha Reid samantha.reid7@nhs.scot
- John Fowlie john.fowlie2@nhs.scot
- Gordon Lague gordon.lague2@nhs.scot

The community pharmacy employees currently elected to the APC are:

- Anne Marshall anne.marshall1@nhs.scot
- Jennifer Hay jennifer.hay2@nhs.scot
- Dawn Ferguson dawn.ferguson1@nhs.scot
- Stacey Forsyth stacey.forsyth@nhs.scot
- Matthew Hamilton matthew.hamilton2@nhs.scot

If you have a matter you wish to be raised and discussed at APC, please contact one of the representatives listed above via their associated email address.

Language Line and TransMedD

With a growing population of people seeking asylum in Grampian, the use of language line and TransMedD for translation is becoming more important in community pharmacies. We have received a few complaints from GMED where pharmacies have directly referred a patient to GMED because they cannot communicate due to the language barrier. This is not acceptable. All pharmacies have free access to Language Line and translation tools for prescription instructions. Please see attached for language line instructions and the link below to access the TransMedD resources:

- [Browse By Subject \(durham.gov.uk\)](#) select TransmedD in subject box, then download the file to see the 21 language translation options.

Potentially infectious skin conditions in people seeking asylum

As you will likely be aware, there is a growing population of people seeking asylum who are being accommodated in hotels in Grampian. We are aware that members of this population are presenting with a variety of symptoms to community pharmacies.

Recent experience leads us to remind colleagues that the diagnosis of **scabies** should always involve clinical examination of the affected sites. This is important as this population can present with a range of **skin lesions, rashes, ulcers or wounds**, sometimes associated with staphylococcal or streptococcal infections. There is also a very low but possible risk of cutaneous diphtheria in this population.

Whenever you see a patient from this population presenting with potentially infectious symptoms please contact the Health Protection Team (HPT). The address the person gives will identify them as a member of this population, as all asylum seekers living in Grampian are staying in hotels which have been fully reserved only for this population. You do not necessarily need to provide individual patient details, as simply knowing the hotel accommodation involved would allow the HPT to investigate.

Hotels accommodating people seeking asylum:

Aberdeen City: Patio Hotel (Aberdeen), Sure Hotel by Best Western (Summerhill), Brentwood Hotel
Aberdeenshire: Hampton by Hilton, Westhill
Moray: Eight Acres Hotel, Elgin

Health Protection Team, NHS Grampian:

01224 558520

gram.healthprotection@nhs.scot

SPS: Refrigerated Medicines Tool

Last week we highlighted the Specialist Pharmacy Service Medicines Stability Tool for considering medicines before they are used in compliance aids. This week, we want to highlight the new refrigerated medicines tool, which provides guidance on the use of medicines when they have been out of range: [Refrigerated medicines stability tool – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice](#)

Festive Public Holidays CP Opening Times

PCCT will shortly be releasing the festive public holiday opening times for community pharmacies in Grampian. This information will be available on the CP website here: [NHS Community Pharmacy Website \(scot.nhs.uk\)](#)

Asthma and COPD Studies: Pharmacies Wanted

Dr Fiona Mosgrove, GPwSI Respiratory, is involved in two qualitative trials and is hoping to recruit patients from community pharmacies to participate in the studies. She is looking for 3-4 pharmacies (ideally from the same pharmacy group) to participate. Full training will be provided for staff (approx. 1 hour online) and funding is available for both recruitment in pharmacy and take away information which leads to recruitment. Please submit your expression of interest to participate to gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot by Friday 1st December.

Liraglutide (Saxenda®) and semaglutide (Wegovy®) for weight management - not recommended for prescribing within NHS Grampian.

Within NHS Grampian, liraglutide (Saxenda®) and semaglutide (Wegovy®), for the purposes of weight management, are currently not recommended for prescribing within NHS Grampian (as per [Grampian Area Formulary](#)).

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has accepted both of these medicines for **restricted use** with NHS Scotland. Within their advice it states that "**patients should be treated in a specialist weight management service**". As such, until the appropriate NHS Grampian specialist service has considered

this advice, NHS Grampian do not support the prescribing of liraglutide (Saxenda®) and semaglutide (Wegovy®) for the purposes of weight management.

While some community pharmacies may supply these medications privately for the purposes of weight management, it would not be appropriate to advise or refer patients to their GP practice for prescribing within the NHS as these medications will only be available to patients that meet eligibility criteria and only through a specialist weight management service.

SMC advice:

- [semaglutide \(Wegovy\) \(scottishmedicines.org.uk\)](http://scottishmedicines.org.uk)
- [liraglutide \(Saxenda\) \(scottishmedicines.org.uk\)](http://scottishmedicines.org.uk)

Public Health Update

Financial Advice and Support Available

The Healthpoint team have been developing a range of financial advice and support for clients. If you have any patients who you think may benefit, please refer them to Healthpoint on 08085 20 20 30. The services include:

- Supporting clients to access an online benefits checker to ensure they are receiving the benefits they are entitled to. Clients can either complete the online form themselves, or a Healthpoint Advisor can support them and complete the online form on their behalf. Once completed, the website provides a list of suggested benefits if appropriate
- Informing clients of local food banks/pantries and referring clients where appropriate
- We work in partnership with Home Energy Scotland and can now refer clients directly to them. They will then provide the client with energy saving advice and practical support
- Working with Social Security Scotland, we can now advise clients with long term conditions on the benefits potentially available to them and signpost them to support to complete the application forms
- Signposting clients to cost of living services across Grampian e.g. Citizens Advice Bureau, Council Welfare teams etc.

World Aids Day 2023: Get Checked

World AIDS Day takes place on 1 December each year. It's an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness. Did you know that it is estimated that 7% of people living with HIV in Scotland don't know they have it?

The sexual health team are getting out on the road and offering free and confidential testing for HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C across Grampian. Please encourage your community to get tested at the following locations from next week:

Date	Time	Place
Monday 27 th November 2023	10am – 3pm	Robert Gordon University-Riverside Building
Tuesday 28 th November 2023	10am – 3pm	Plainstones, Elgin High Street
Wednesday 29 th November 2023	10am – 3pm	Asda Car Park, Huntly
Thursday 30 th November 2023	10am – 3pm	Asda Car Park, Peterhead
1/12/23	10am – 3pm	St Nicholas Street, outside M&S, Aberdeen

For more information, support and where else to get tested visit: NHS Grampian Sexual Health Service www.grampiansexualhealthservices.com

Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



Closure of PPE Services from March 2024

Our colleagues at National Services Scotland have sent the following letter to contractors informing the network of changes to PPE Supply arrangements from March 2024 through PECOS online ordering...

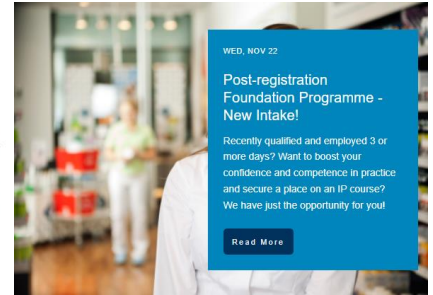
[Read More](#)



Practice Resource - Drug Interactions with Smoking

A colleague has recently highlighted to us an update to the Specialist Pharmacy Services (SPS) "Considering drug interactions with smoking" tool that we thought was well worth sharing with you and your teams...

[Read More](#)



WED, NOV 22

Post-registration Foundation Programme - New Intake!

Recently qualified and employed 3 or more days? Want to boost your confidence and competence in practice and secure a place on an IP course? We have just the opportunity for you!

[Read More](#)

The Happy Place 😊

Christmas Jumper Day – 7th December 2023

Christmas Jumper day is taking place on Thursday 7th December. Put on your best festive jumper and join the millions of people up and down the country who will be coming together at their workplace, school or with friends to raise money for the Save the Children charity.

Will you be joining in? Please send us photos of your staff with their festive jumpers on and we will share in our 8th December issue.

Save the Children supports charitable causes across the UK and abroad. If you would like to donate see [link here](#).

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

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