

# Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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## Pharmacy First: Updated Guidance and Referral Form for Treatment of Minor Eye Conditions

The attached PCA(O)(2023)5 and PCA(P)(2023)45 circular provides updated guidance aimed at both community optometry and community pharmacy teams and an updated referral form for the assessment and treatment of minor eye conditions.

Please also see attached a list of NHS Grampian Community Optometry Practices including opening hours and contact details for your convenience.

## Pharmacy First: Not for Medicine Cupboard Stocks

With lots of information circulating social media regarding “know who to turn to” and using “pharmacy first”, we wanted to remind you that treatment should only be supplied via the NHS Pharmacy First Scotland Service for patients with active symptoms, not for patients looking to stock up their medicine cupboards.

## NHS Grampian Festive Holiday Opening Hours

Please be reminded that all community pharmacy opening hours over the festive period can be viewed via the community pharmacy website [here](#), which we will also share via our [Facebook page](#).

## Community Pharmacy NHS Patient Group Directions (PGDs)

There are currently review dates on some of the NHS PGDs. Please note that review dates are not expiry dates; they are a note of the time window in which the review will take place. If the PGD is past its review date, the content will remain valid until such time as the PGD review is complete and the new issue published. PGDs with expiry dates will have these specifically stated.

The national PGDs for aciclovir and flucloxacillin for use under NHS Pharmacy First Scotland, and desogestrel for use under Public Health Service are currently under review – updated versions will be issued in 2024.

## Smoking Cessation Update Smoking Cessation Campaign

Most years we see a higher rate of people signing up to stop smoking in January. Please be prepared and encourage patients to stop smoking using your own websites and social media platforms.

From 9<sup>th</sup> January - 5<sup>th</sup> February (and beyond) the Government-initiated Community Pharmacy Scotland campaign will promote smoking cessation. Please ensure you watch out for the poster arriving and put it up prominently in your pharmacy as soon as possible. We will be running a month-long awareness campaign on Facebook, highlighting many areas around training, PCR use and more.

## The Happy Place 😊

### 200<sup>th</sup> Issue of the CP Update

Next Friday (5<sup>th</sup> January) is our 200<sup>th</sup> issue of the weekly community pharmacy update. We have come a long way since the daily updates in 2020! We would love to use this 200<sup>th</sup> issue as an opportunity for reward and recognition of the teams who read this.

- Have you a long serving team member?
- A delivery driver who goes above and beyond for your patients?
- A pharmacy student putting their learning into practice in your pharmacy?
- A pharmacist prescriber making a difference in your local community?
- A dispenser / technician delivering above and beyond their role?

If so, please send us in your good news stories, thanks for teams, special mentions etc to [gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot) and we'll compile this special issue. Deadline for all content is Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 5pm.

### PCS Team Staffing

A wee reminder that the PCS team are working with reduced staffing levels over the festive period. There will be no one available from 4pm Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December until 8am Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January. During this period, please contact [gram.gmedurgent@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.gmedurgent@nhs.scot) with any prescription related enquiries or follow the PCCT SOP for unplanned closures if your pharmacy has to close unexpectedly.

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).

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](#)