

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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Amendment to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations

The Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 have been amended so that from 31st December 2023 paramedic independent prescribers can prescribe five specified controlled drugs, therapeutic radiographer independent prescribers can prescribe six specified controlled drugs, and registered chiropodists and podiatrists can supply three codeine products. The amendments attached also now specify that possession of ketamine by healthcare professionals acting under patient group directions, including paramedics, is lawful.

New Guidance for Valproate and the Pregnancy Prevention Programme

The MHRA requires organisations to implement new regulatory measures for valproate due to the risk of serious harm to a baby during pregnancy.

Do you know what actions to take before Wednesday 31st January?

Not sure what you need to do? RPS [pharmacy alert](#) from November 2023 has all the details and links to further details from the MHRA.

For more about valproate prescribing, dispensing, and counselling, please see the below link:

[Pharmacy Guide on valproate and the pregnancy prevention programme.](#)

Coeliac Disease eLearning

The dietetic service will be promoting all coeliac patients to avail of the annual health check from community pharmacies in Grampian. A reminder that this annual health check is a core, mandatory component of the national service. This is a reminder to ensure any pharmacists who haven't completed the Coeliac Disease eLearning should do so as a priority. The TURAS GFFS eLearning module is available here: [Gluten-Free Food Service | Turas | Learn \(nhs.scot\)](#) (or search gluten free in the search bar)

Palliative Care Evening Education Series

The Palliative and End-of-Life Care Network is organising another series of online evening talks for **palliative care network pharmacies**, this time centred around palliative medicine in chronic diseases. These sessions will take place on Teams and are open to anyone with an interest or involvement in palliative medicine. Upcoming sessions are as follows:

CLICK LINK TO REGISTER:

[Palliative care in renal medicine with Dr Laura Clark, Wednesday 7 February, 6pm.](#)

CLICK LINK TO REGISTER:

[Dementia at end of life, with Kenny Davidson, Monday 18 March, 6pm.](#)

Other sessions are being planned for palliative care of respiratory and cardiac conditions. Details to follow when available.

Representative attendance from all palliative care pharmacies is required to fulfil the training requirements of the community pharmacy palliative care network.

Migraine Management Project – Webinar 31st January 2024

Understanding migraine, treatments and accessing Grampian support

NHS Grampian in co-operation with The Migraine Trust have worked with pharmacy teams to improve migraine management. As part of the project a webinar has been organised which will bring together a pharmacist, GP and Neurology Consultant to discuss why migraine happens, what the current and new treatment options are and how people living with migraine in Grampian can access support.

Date: Wed, 31 Jan 2024

Time: 19:00 - 20:30

Venue: Zoom

We encourage you to attend. The link to register can be found here: [Understanding migraine, treatments and accessing Grampian support. Tickets, Wed 31 Jan 2024 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Smoking Cessation Update

Smoking/Vaping Poster campaign

You'll all have received your double sided tobacco/vaping poster. We've had some queries regarding the vaping element of this and the support pharmacies can provide.

As it stands, there is no change in the guidance for pharmacies, anyone who wants to quit vaping should be referred to Quit Your Way on 0800 84 84 84.

There's a lot of movement going on in schools right now around vaping education and I believe the Government are using this poster campaign to raise awareness, given that pharmacy windows are plentiful and a good way to promote far and wide.

There may be changes coming and we'll keep you updated. In the meantime, if you find promoting vaping is causing too much confusion, feel free just to promote the tobacco side.

Common PCR Administrative Errors Summary

Please be aware that there are some continual PCR errors being noted which affect data collection and may affect your payments.

- Clients cannot be re-registered onto the smoking cessation programme in the same week. Be aware that cut off for payment is on a Thursday so please allow a week to pass before re-registering clients on PCR otherwise the record will not go through, and payment will be void. However, please support your clients to set another quit date as soon as possible.
- Quit dates cannot be set more than 14 days in advance, PCR will not recognise this and payment will be void.
- Do NOT add the Client's contact number as the Pharmacy's telephone number. If you do not have a valid telephone number for the client, please enter "UNKNOWN". A blank or a Pharmacy number will make any payment void.
- You should know what type of NRT your client is on but if, for whatever reason, you do not, please do NOT write "unknown", PCR does not recognise that and payment will be void, instead write "NONE".

- It is vital that you ensure good housekeeping in order to keep track of clients and submissions. Missed submissions cannot be claimed beyond 3 months.

If you need a reminder on using PCR, please watch the webinar at the CPS link here:
[Smoking Cessation Support Tool Webcast - YouTube](#)

Paediatric Physiotherapy Advice Line

The Paediatric Physiotherapy Service run a children and young person's Advice Line twice a week. This is available for anyone who has questions or concerns. To raise the awareness of this Advice Line as much as possible within communities, details can be found on the attached poster which we encourage to be displayed within your pharmacy.

Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up

Sustainability and Respiratory Prescribing - Webinar Jan 31st 2024
 Next in the series of Respiratory Webinars will be held on January 31st 2024...

[Read More](#)



Coming soon – Support Materials for the NHS Scotland Naloxone Emergency Supply Service

We're excited to announce the imminent arrival of support materials for the NHS Scotland Naloxone Emergency Supply Service at your pharmacy. Set to reach pharmacies in February-March 2024, these materials are designed to enhance your understanding and utilization of the service...

[Read More](#)

The Happy Place 😊

Smoking Cessation Promotional Event at Boots Union Square

This week, we wish a huge well done to Stephanie Kydd and her trainee pharmacist colleagues who hosted a smoking cessation promotional event at Boots Union Square. They engaged with passers-by and even wandered Union Square, handing out flyers and engaging with the public to raise awareness of the pharmacy smoking service. Absolutely fantastic Public Health work!

If anyone else would like to follow suit, we may be able to lend out the large pop-up banner in the picture and give some advice around leaflets so please do not hesitate to get in touch.



We would like to continue this section as an opportunity for reward, recognition and good news stories of the teams who read this! Please submit any items for inclusion to: gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot.

All weekly updates are uploaded to the [CP Grampian website](#).

Remember to like our Facebook page for regular updates: [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.