



NEWS/OPPORTUNITIES

Locality Meetings GP Practice & Community Pharmacy: We are currently planning locality evenings for each Locality in Lanarkshire in 2024, to bring together GP Practices and Community Pharmacies in each area to meet, catch up over a coffee, and discuss better ways of working together. You will receive an email invitation to your locality (or neighbouring locality) over the coming months, we appreciate your support in these.

Palliative Care Network Lunchtime Education Meetings via Teams: We are pleased to announce the restart of education sessions for the Palliative Care Network with the specialist palliative care pharmacist Linda Johnston. These meetings will be short, informal (~30mins) and the focus will be to highlight any issues with service provision (e.g. medicines shortages) and to update the group on any new prescribing practices/ information resources etc. It will also be an ideal opportunity to meet other group members and discuss any issues pertinent to the network with the group as a whole. Any member of the pharmacy team that is involved with the network is welcome to attend. The first meeting will be held on Tuesday 27th February 13.30-2pm- please check your mailbox for the link.

The supply of Enzalutamide (Xtandi®) through Community Pharmacies: We would like to remind all pharmacy contractors, who are or who may in future become involved in the supply of Enzalutamide through community pharmacy for the treatment of prostate cancer, of their obligation as part of the service level agreement to purchase Enzalutamide (Xtandi®) medicine through the formal UK supply chain, which is through the wholesaler Alliance. We appreciate your co-operation in this.

The national whistleblowing standards: return for Q3 (1st October 2023 – 31st December 2023) is now due for submission. Please use the Survey Monkey link below to submit your return no later than **Friday 2nd February 2024**. https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PCare-Q3_Pharmacy_Whistleblowing_Concerns_2023-24 **Responses should not contain personal identifiable information.**

Benzodiazepines for Fear of Flying: Fear of flying is considered one of the top three phobias in the adult population. It is recognised that patients often approach their GP to seek benzodiazepines ahead of flying but benzodiazepines are not licensed to treat those with a fear of flying. Please see the advice below that can be given should a patient attend a GP practice due to fear of flying:

- Often reassurance about the patients' fitness to fly can alleviate apprehensions
- Signpost the patient to fear of flying courses available across the various airlines (British Airways - <https://flyingwithconfidence.com/> , EasyJet - <https://fearlessflyer.easyjet.com/about-course/more-about-the-course.php> , Virgin - <https://flywith.virginatlantic.com/il/en/wellbeing-and-health/flying-withoutfear.html>)
- Advise the patient to inform cabin crew of their fear in order that they can support inflight
- In severe cases, you could refer the patient for cognitive behavioural therapy
- For more information, please see the links: UK Civil Aviation Authority – <https://www.caa.co.uk/passengers/before-you-fly/am-i-fit-to-fly/healthinformation-for-passengers/passenger-health-faqs-am-i-fit-to-fly/>
- Fit for travel - <https://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/advice/general-travel-health-advice/air-travel>

Public Health Scotland Campaign: The next Public Health Scotland campaign posters should now have arrived at all community pharmacies and be on display until 4 March 2024.



LET'S CELEBRATE: GOOD NEWS STORIES

We are delighted that Boots Pharmacy in Forgewood, Motherwell has become the second Community Pharmacy in Lanarkshire to sign up to the ASH Charter.

This pharmacy was the second top performer for successful 12 week LDP quits out of the 144 pharmacies in Lanarkshire.

We give a big thank you to the Pharmacist Store Manager Lorraine Grant, her Pharmacy Technician Laila Shah and the whole team for the successful delivery of the service.



PHARMACY FIRST PLUS + UPDATES

Starting Pharmacy First Plus We encourage those qualified as an IP and interested in starting the service to check in with CP Lanarkshire Website- this contains all the information needed on getting started, ordering forms, instructions on joining the peer review group. [NHS Community Pharmacy Website \(scot.nhs.uk\)](http://NHSCommunityPharmacyWebsite.scot.nhs.uk)

Antimicrobial Prescribing Optimising antimicrobial use remains an important way to minimise the threat from antimicrobial resistance. In winter there is an increase in people presenting with symptoms of respiratory infections but most winter respiratory tract infections are caused by viruses and do not require treatment with antibiotics. It is vital for clinicians to follow advice on antibiotic prescribing from the Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group and NHS Lanarkshire antibiotic prescribing guidelines on when to use antibiotics, the choice of antibiotic and duration of treatment. We encourage our pharmacist IPs to use and follow these resources.

Pharmacy First Plus IP Peer Review Group in Lanarkshire There is a growth of new pharmacists now undertaking prescribing, and the pharmacy first plus service- I wanted to issue a gentle reminder of our own Lanarkshire IP Peer Review Network Group, whom meet quarterly, this good for service governance, your own CPD, and linking in with

others delivering the service. We are due to meet again soon, in February- If you are not already on the distribution list for this and wish to be, please email myself lauren.gibson@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk, to be added.

Dermatology Education Session We are hosting an online lunchtime dermatology education session with Dr Philip Anderson, for our Pharmacy First Plus Prescribers on Thursday 22nd February at 1pm- 2pm, over teams. However if you are not currently an IP and still wish to watch this session, please email lauren.gibson@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk stating your name, GPhC Number and the pharmacy you work in to be added to the session. Thank you.

CLINICAL SERVICE UPDATES

Addiction Services Updates **Neo 360 Ort Module Communication Tool** A gentle reminder that the NEO communication tool is live and available for pharmacies to use. The communications tool will allow community pharmacies to report when patients have missed more than 3 doses or are no longer attending that community pharmacy directly to the patients' community addiction team by e-mail. This will provide a robust audit trail and allow communication between community pharmacy and addiction team. The early reporting of missed doses is important as this allows addiction services to respond to patients who have missed doses quickly. The e-mail will be sent from the NEO system directly, but will use the pharmacies e-mail address to allow for reply or further communication between the community pharmacy and the addiction team.

As we are nearing the end of the financial year a gentle reminder to all pharmacies to check their NEO submissions are up to date, and no submissions have been missed to ensure correct payment. Thank you.

Cancer Services Updates We would like to remind all pharmacy contractors, who are or who may in future become involved in the supply of Enzalutamide through community pharmacy for the treatment of prostate cancer, of their obligation as part of the service level agreement to purchase Enzalutamide (Xtandi[®]) medicine through the formal UK supply chain, which is through the wholesaler Alliance. We appreciate your co-operation in this.

Palliative Care Service Updates **Palliative Care Network meetings via Teams.** The meeting will be short (~30mins) and the focus will be to highlight any issues with service provision (e.g. medicines shortages) and to update the group on any new prescribing practices/ information resources etc. It will also be an ideal opportunity to meet other group members and discuss any issues pertinent to the network with the group as a whole. Any member of the pharmacy team that is involved with the network is welcome to attend.

IT/Digital Team Updates **NHS.Scot Shared Mailboxes** NHS Lanarkshire Digital Team are currently in the process of auditing all pharmacy shared mailboxes to ensure you all have the coverage you require and to remove access for staff who no longer work in your pharmacy. It is very important that when someone leaves the pharmacy you send an email from your pharmacy's shared mailbox to NHSLanarkshire.PharmacyFacilitation@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk requesting that access is removed. Additionally all requests for access and or new nhs.scot accounts should be emailed from your pharmacy's shared mailbox to NHSLanarkshire.PharmacyFacilitation@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

SWAN1 > SWAN 2 (Independent Pharmacy Contractors) Over the coming weeks and months NSS are working with our partners BT to facilitate the move from SWAN1 > SWAN2, this will bring a fibre connection to your pharmacy, also upgrading your current WIFI solution. Colleagues from the ePharmacy Helpdesk are contacting the pharmacy by telephone to book both visits (1st Hardware install & 2nd Connectivity transition). Please share details of the planned

visits with all relevant members of staff in the pharmacy and should you require to reschedule a booking or have any questions relating to these visits then please call the ePharmacy Helpdesk 0131 275 6600.

AMS Digital As you will be aware the pilot phase of AMS Digital is now on hold, some pharmacies are voluntarily continuing to separate their prescriptions, therefore if you have stock of clear bags that you no longer require then please email NHSLanarkshire.PharmacyFacilitation@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk and we will arrange to collect and provide to those pharmacies that are continuing to separate their submissions.

Controlled Drugs Team Update All Private CD Prescriptions for Schedule 2 and 3 CDs (i.e. PPCD(1) Forms) are to be sent to NSS along with your mid-/end-of-month submissions, and are to be accompanied by a CD34 form, which can be ordered from Practitioner Services, 3 Bain Square, Livingston, EH54 7DQ (Tel: 01506 705100).

This is according to HDL (2006)27: Safer Management of Controlled Drugs (CDs): Private CD Prescriptions and Changes to NHS Prescriptions [SE Health Department NHS, MEL \(scot.nhs.uk\)](#) (Paragraph 9).

CONTACTS

Pharmacy/Prescribing Admin Team
NHS Lanarkshire Headquarters
Kirklands, Fallside Road, Bothwell
G71 8BB
Pharmacy.AdminTeam@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

Lauren Gibson
Lead Pharmacist for Community Pharmacy Services
NHS Lanarkshire
Kirklands Hospital- Bothwell
lauren.gibson@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk