

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update

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Dissemination Error of Shingles PGD

You may be aware that we recently shared an attachment and information on the Shingles PGD within our newsletter dated 9th February. We can confirm that this was shared in error, and is not applicable for pharmacy services. Please note our apologies for any confusion this may have caused.

Codeine Linctus (Codeine Oral Solutions): Reclassification to Prescription-only Medicine

In October 2022, the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) advised that codeine linctus should be made available as a prescription-only medicine (POM). The MHRA [undertook a public consultation](#) to obtain views on its reclassification. The consultation ran from 18 July 2023 to 15 August 2023.

Following the results of the public consultation and the further advice of the CHM, codeine linctus will no longer be supplied without a prescription. This is a risk minimisation measure to protect the health of patients in need of treatment, to prevent recreational use and to enable the identification of individuals who may have become unintentionally addicted to codeine.

Patients will still be able to access codeine linctus with a prescription from a qualified healthcare professional. This will ensure that the medicine is used safely and appropriately under medical supervision.

Please [click here](#) to view the Drug Safety Alert which provides advice for healthcare professionals.

Pseudoephedrine: Very Rare Risk of Posterior Reversible Encephalopathy Syndrome (PRES) and Reversible Cerebral Vasoconstriction (RCVS)

There have been very rare reports of PRES and RCVS with pseudoephedrine. A review of the available evidence, including the assessment of cumulative reporting of adverse drug reaction reports, was considered by the Pharmacovigilance Expert Advisory Group (PEAG) of the [Commission on Human Medicines \(CHM\)](#).

The PEAG recommended updates to the [Summary of Product Characteristics \(SmPC\)](#) and the [Patient Information Leaflet \(PIL\)](#) to further describe the risk of PRES and RCVS and the potential risk factors for these conditions, and advised the MHRA to remind healthcare professionals and patients of these risks.

Please [click here](#) to view the Drug Safety Alert which provides advice for healthcare professionals.

Community Pharmacy Public Holidays 2024-25 and Pharmacy Opening Hours

Please be reminded of the Public Holiday information request which has been shared by the Primary Care Contracts team via email for completion. All contractors are requested to complete the survey linked [here](#) via Microsoft Forms in order to collect this data by Monday 26th February 2024.

All queries regarding Public Holidays should be directed to PCCT: gram.pcctpharmacy@nhs.scot.

Smoking Cessation Update

Smoking Cessation Data, Quarter 2 July – September 2023

We have received the smoking data for Quarter 2, July to September 2023. Please note the data is always 6 months behind.

Below shows a summary of all pharmacies in Grampian; sign-ups and missed submissions at 4 weeks and 12 weeks. Remember if you sign someone up, you can claim at 4 weeks providing you've made an effort to support them (tried to contact them on 3 separate occasions). Someone who swaps to vaping is classed as a successful tobacco quit!

It's vital for National data that we know what has happened to patients at the 4 week mark and you will still be paid even if they have been "lost to follow up" or are still smoking, so please ensure the PCR record is updated at the 4 week mark for ALL sign-ups. Patients lost to follow up or still smoking at 4 weeks cannot continue to completion and should be closed off on PCR.

Great improvement again at the 12 week mark, well done!

Missed submissions for July to September (Quarter 2) 2023

- Sign-ups in total = 860
 - Missed submissions at 4 weeks = 276
 - Missed submissions at 12 weeks = 5
- TOTAL PERCENTAGE OF MISSED AT 4 WEEK STAGE = 32%
- TOTAL LOSS TO PHARMACIES = £4315

Missed submissions for July to September (Quarter 2) 2022 as a comparison

- Sign-ups in total = 732
 - Missed submissions at 4 weeks = 251
 - Missed submissions at 12 weeks = 31
- TOTAL PERCENTAGE OF MISSED AT 4 WEEK STAGE = 34%
- TOTAL LOSS TO PHARMACIES = £4850

Pharmacy Care Record (PCR) for Locums

We have heard a few concerns that the smoking records on PCR are not updated by locum pharmacists who see patients for Smoking Cessation Services.


To be able to deliver a number of both core and national contractual services it is essential to have a personal user ID and password to allow access and utilise the PCR. To request a user name and password complete a [PCR Registration Form](#), hosted on Microsoft Forms. This request should be undertaken prior to working as a locum pharmacist within NHS Grampian.

Please remind ALL locums working with you that they have a responsibility to be able to log into PCR and update all appropriate records.

Quit Your Way Poster

Please find attached a digital graphic poster for sharing on your own social media pages. Please note that this same graphic has been sent to ALL GP practices in Grampian in poster form to display in their waiting areas. Also sent out to GP's was the poster in a short video animation which you'll find featured on our FB page this week for sharing to your own social media pages.

Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



THU, FEB 22

Ask Me Anything - New UCF Recording for Pharmacy First Plus and General NHS Pharmacy First Scotland Service

We are hosting an Ask Me Anything where we will let you know about the new Community Pharmacy Independent Prescriber (IP) activity reporting system for the Pharmacy First Plus Service, and we will also answer any questions you have on the NHS Pharmacy First Scotland Service...

[Read More](#)

Important Update for Pharmacies: NHS Scotland's SWAN Connection Upgrade

NHS Scotland, in collaboration with BT, is set to enhance the Scottish Wide Area Network (SWAN), benefiting over 6,000 sites, including pharmacies. The upgrade promises improved communication and collaboration, with pharmacies experiencing faster fibre broadband for enhanced operational efficiency...



[Read More](#)

The Happy Place 😊

Positive Pharmacy Feedback!

Dr Casserly from Aberdeen City drug and alcohol team has been in touch to commend Craig Robb and the team at Garthdee Pharmacy for the invaluable support they provide for patients accessing their service. Craig gave additional support in the pharmacy for Dr Casserly during a challenging consultation.

Well done to Craig and all of the team at Garthdee Pharmacy!

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 Pharmacy Grampian – NHSG](#)