

# Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update

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## Salbutamol Nebule Supply Issues

The stock situation has improved with salbutamol nebulas which means we are less likely to see an impact on the availability of these lines. The Scottish Government released the attached MSAN on Friday stating that "the MSAN supersedes the National Patient Safety Alert (NatPSA/2024/003/DHSC\_MVA) issued on 26 February 2024".

The 2.5mg/2.5ml nebulas do still remain in limited supply so care should be exercised in the prescribing and re-ordering of these to ensure the supply chain can be maintained. Community pharmacies are asked to note this updated guidance and to ensure licensed medications are ordered when prescribed.

## Hepatitis C SLA Update

As of the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2024, the majority of new patients treated for Hepatitis C will receive Maviret (Glecaprevir/Pibrentasvir) in place of Eplclusa (Sofobuvir/Velpatasvir) and Harvoni (Ledipasvir/Sofosbuvir) due to a change in national contract.

Maviret is a pangenotypic treatment for Hepatitis C containing a NS3/4A Protease Inhibitor and a NS5A inhibitor and should be taken as 3 tablets (total dose 300mg/120mg), once daily with food. For supervised consumption patients, this may involve a nutritional supplement being prescribed alongside Maviret on the HBP(5) and the patient will be expected to drink at least half the food supplement whilst taking their medication in order to comply with the requirement to consume with food.

Maviret should be ordered via Polar Speed and pharmacies who do not currently have an account but are signed up to the SLA will be required to set one up. All other aspects of the service will remain unchanged. All patients who have commenced on treatment on Gilead products will complete treatment on these products and up to 20% of patients may still be commenced on the Gilead products (Eplclusa/Harvoni/Vosevi) depending on clinical need.

We are aware that there is some stock of Eplclusa, Harvoni and Vosevi which are not currently being used to treat a patient, remaining at some pharmacies, can you please get in contact with the Hepatology Pharmacy Team on the email below if this is the case at your pharmacy.

Apologies for the lateness of this communication, up until now this information has been commercial in confidence so we have been unable to share. If you have any questions regarding the changes to treatment, please get in touch with the Hepatology Pharmacy Team: [gram.hepatologypharmacyteam@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.hepatologypharmacyteam@nhs.scot).

## Aveeno Cream: Prescribing Snapshot

Please find the attached Aveeno® Cream Prescribing Snapshot with required actions to take place, as also listed below:

- **SHARE** - Ensure all prescribers are aware of this information.
- **STOP** – No new prescriptions for Aveeno® Cream. Individuals requesting should be advised only NHS Grampian approved products can be prescribed.
- **REVIEW** – Patients currently prescribing Aveeno® Cream to be switched to a NHS Grampian approved product.

## Access to Vaccination Management Tool (VMT)

The Vaccination Team have confirmed they will be removing those who currently have access to the vaccination management tool and have not logged into the system since 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023. Regular reviews will begin to take place on VMT access, and those who have not logged in for 3 months will have their access removed.

## For Action: Prescription Staples

On behalf of the new Scanning Service in Gyle Square, all Grampian community pharmacies are requested to cease the use of staples on prescriptions. When prescriptions are received with staples, they stop batches on the new scanners. If these pass through the system they will scratch the glass inside the scanners, which is expensive to replace. Thank you for your co-operation.

## Palliative Care Evening Education Series

The Palliative and End-of-Life Care Network has organised a series of online evening talks for **palliative care network pharmacies**. The final event in the series is focused on Dementia, which will be led by Kenny Davidson, Specialist Nurse for Dementia held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 18:00-19:00.

**Representative attendance from all palliative care pharmacies is required as part of your [SLA training requirements](#). This session will not be recorded.**

We have noted your feedback on the early start time of these sessions and have passed this on to the Managed Clinical Network for future organisation.

In consideration of this the additional payment for attendance at training events will awarded to any pharmacy who attended at least 1 of the 2 training sessions.

**CLICK LINK TO REGISTER:**

[Dementia at end of life, with Kenny Davidson, Monday 18 March 2024, 6pm.](#)

## Survey of Healthcare Workers Knowledge and Attitudes about Antibiotic Use, Infection Prevention and Resistance

All community pharmacy teams are invited to complete the attached survey of healthcare professionals in patient facing roles across the UK about their knowledge and attitudes about antibiotics and antibiotic resistance.

This survey is being conducted on behalf of the UK Health Security Agency, who are seeking responses from healthcare workers, including doctors, nurses, pharmacists, dentists as well as nursing assistants,

dental/pharmacy technicians. The results will be shared at the UK and relevant country levels with national agencies focussed on tackling antimicrobial resistance in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Please [click here](#) to complete the survey by **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024**. For further information please contact the UK Health Security Agency: [espaur@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:espaur@ukhsa.gov.uk).

## Smoking Cessation

### No Smoking Day

Thank you to everyone who made a special effort to promote No Smoking Day this past Wednesday. We will determine if there was an increased number of sign-ups within our data in approximately 6 months' time. We encourage you all to promote smoking services continually throughout the year. If you'd like a smaller A4 poster, please let us know via email and we will send a couple out to you.

We would love to see your pictures of any No Smoking Day displays, please send these to: [gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot).

## Public Health Update

### Government Poster Campaign – IMPORTANT!

The menopause campaign, originally due to be displayed in community pharmacies from 5 March 2024 – 31 March 2024, has unfortunately been cancelled.

You should **continue to display your Quit Your Way poster** for now and until further notice. We have had no details of future campaigns into 2024/25 but will share info once arrangements are confirmed.

### Healthpoint Services

NHS Grampian Healthpoint have released a new animation, linked [here](#), to promote within your communities. Please find the blurb below which you can use to accompany it and remember to share to your own social media pages! We have also attached a referral pathway for Healthpoint services which you can use within your pharmacies where appropriate.

*"Find the right information and support for your health concerns with NHS Grampian Healthpoint. Our Healthpoint Advisors are on hand to offer free and confidential health advice to assist you in finding the right services and support for you."*

### World Oral Health Day

Every year, on 20<sup>th</sup> March, the world unites to help reduce the burden of oral diseases which affect individuals, health systems and economies everywhere. World Oral Health Day aims to empower people with the knowledge, tools and confidence to secure good oral health. More information is available [here](#).

We have recently been working in partnership with NHSG oral health team and may have an opportunity for pharmacies to stock free toothpaste and toothbrushes for vulnerable groups. We will keep you updated on this.

### World TB Day

Every year, on 24<sup>th</sup> March, the Stop TB Partnership and its partners unite to raise public awareness of the devastating health, social, and economic impacts of TB and call for an end to this epidemic. Please find information including a toolkit and promotional materials [here](#).

Please remember in Grampian, if you suspect TB or have any questions relating to TB, you can contact the TB specialist Health Protection Team:

Office Hours: 01224 558520

Out of Hours: 0345 456 6000 (ask for Public Health Oncall)  
Email: [gram.healthprotection@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.healthprotection@nhs.scot)

## Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



### Digital Prescribing and Dispensing Pathways - Key Questions Series

With Adam in the policy office now working one day a week in the DPDP programme, CPS are now closer to the action and helping the team understand the dispenser point of view so that the paperless

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### UCF Pharmacy First Plus Module: Postponement

We have been working with Scottish Government and NHS colleagues on trying to capture Pharmacy First Plus prescribing, advice and referrals data to better evidence the great work being done out in the

[Read More](#)

### Digital Prescribing and Dispensing Pathways (DPDP) - Winter Newsletter

The journey to paperless prescribing is underway - click here to read the latest!

[Read More](#)



## The Happy Place 😊

### Latest Cancer Research Study

Latest cancer research with partners at Cancer Research UK and the International Cancer Benchmarking Partnership shows a substantial decline in cancer-related deaths over the last 25 years and where improvements in cancer care can be made.

Results from the 25 year study note the impact and benefit of national cancer screening programmes. These have led to an increase in the numbers of cancers being picked up early, potentially, before the point where people experience symptoms. For breast cancer, screening combined with the many new different treatment options now available, means more women are living longer after their cancer diagnosis.

Read more about this work and where to find all three studies on the PHS website [here](#).

***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](mailto: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](#)*