

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



Contents

01: Primary Care Changes to Prescribing to Support the Delivery of Cost Efficiencies/ Cost Avoidance

02: Pharmacy First Plus Service Referrals

03: Aberdeen in Recovery (AiR) Support

04: Smoking Cessation Update:

- Missed Submissions
- Smoking Cessation Animations

05: Public Health Update: Support Services

06: MedWatch Newsletter – March 2024

07: Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up

08: The Happy Place 😊

Primary Care Changes to Prescribing to Support the Delivery of Cost Efficiencies/ Cost Avoidance

NHS Grampian, and the wider NHS as a whole continue to face cost pressures related to the delivery of prescribed medication. The NHS Grampian Medicines Management Team, in collaboration with HSCP Managers and GP representatives have identified and approved key areas where prescribing efficiencies can be achieved. Appropriately trained HSCP Specialist Pharmacist and Pharmacy Technicians will be undertaking work to deliver cost effective prescribing across GP practices in NHS Grampian.

At present the majority of this work involves switching from Fostair to Luforbec pMDI. This switch is in line with NHS Grampian prescribing guidance and is supported by the NHS Grampian Respiratory Managed Clinical Network.

We kindly request that community pharmacy are alert to these changes and where a message has been provided to a patient via the right hand side of their repeat slip that this is brought to their attention, alongside other appropriate counselling, when handing out medication.

Pharmacy First Plus Service Referrals

It has been brought to our attention that sometimes patients are requested to attend another pharmacy who provide the Pharmacy First Plus service in order to receive appropriate care. Issues have arisen of patients having to go to multiple pharmacies to seek help. Please be mindful of the following:

- Patients may only require some support information with a worsening statement and may not require Pharmacy First Plus services as first line treatment.
- Patients should not be sent to find a prescriber within a pharmacy. If you wish to refer, please call ahead to the pharmacy before the patient leaves the premises to check that they will be able to assist the patient.
- A call to out-of-hours services may be more appropriate for the patient.

Currently we are unable to circulate a list of pharmacies and prescribers but this is under review.

Aberdeen in Recovery (AiR) Support

Aberdeen in Recovery (AiR) are a lived experience recovery organisation which offers support to anyone with active experience of, or who have been affected by addiction. They now have a base on Union Street, between Annie Mo's and Tesco, and have a growing program of support which includes a regular spot every Wednesday morning at the Wellbeing hub in the Bon Accord Centre.

Please [click here](#) to view the events calendar. AiR request your support in advertising this valuable resource to people accessing your pharmacy.

Smoking Cessation

Missed Submissions

As always, we remind you all to ensure good house-keeping in order to keep up-to-date with your smoking submissions. Using the "reports function" on PCR weekly will ensure no submissions are missed.

However, we understand that oversights can happen and we don't want you missing out on hard-earned payments or to lose data for National statistics, therefore, if your missed submission is under 12 weeks from the date you were meant to claim, you can alert your Public Health Practitioner. Please be aware that we can seek payment authorisation and amend the National data but **cannot amend your PCR**. We will need the following information:

- Full CHI number and initials of patient.
- Which submission was missed (4 weeks or 12 weeks)
- Was the patient successful or not in stopping smoking.

Please remember if you missed the 4 week submission, you will be unable to submit on PCR for 12 weeks as the entry will become void. In this case, carry on as normal and alert us of the patient's progress at 12 weeks.

Smoking Cessation Animations

NHS Grampian have released 4 smoking cessation animations, please share these widely on your own social media platforms:

- [Stop Smoking - Health Benefits \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [Stop Smoking - Medical Support \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [Stop Smoking - Mental Health Benefits \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [Stop Smoking - Financial Benefits \(youtube.com\)](#)

Public Health Update

Support Services

A useful library of services with QR codes has been produced. Please see the attached PDF and share within your own communities.

MedWatch Newsletter – March 2024

We have attached the latest edition of the MedWatch newsletter. The March edition includes insulin prescribing and dispensing key points for Primary Care and Community Pharmacies, HIS Inspections of DGH and ARI - Storage of Medicines, Controlled Drugs Sharing Lessons Learned, NHS Grampian Yellow Card Data and an HEPMA Update.

Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up

Ticks and Lyme Disease – Raising Public Awareness

As part of tick bite prevention week our colleague and pharmacist Arlene Bailey from the Lyme Resource Centre has put together the following article to inform community pharmacists on Lyme Disease.

[Read More](#)



PCA(P)(2024)02 - Additional Pharmaceutical Services NHS PFS - Updated PGDs

This Circular advises Health Boards and community pharmacy contractors of updated Patient Group Directions (PGDs) that are to be implemented for the treatment of shingles and skin infections under NHS.

[Read More](#)

The Happy Place 😊

Have you ever wondered who started the trend of tucking into chocolate-shaped eggs on Easter Sunday? It was during the 19th century that the Fry family of Bristol ran the largest chocolate factory in the world and produced the first chocolate egg, in 1873. It was two years later in 1875 that saw Cadbury's make their first Easter egg.



Happy Easter to all who celebrate from the Pharmaceutical Care Services team. Please remember to share your Easter pictures / displays with us and we'd be delighted to share these within our next update!

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](#)