

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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Guanfacine Shortage

Guanfacine (Intuniv[®]) modified release tablets (2mg & 3mg) have gone into short supply with a return date of early May 2024. Many patients have recently been re-titrated, or are in the process of re-titrating following the previous guanfacine shortage. The shortage information (attached) has been disseminated to GP practice pharmacy teams, via HSCP Lead pharmacists, for action in practices. Due to the short time frame of supply issues, it is anticipated that not all patients will be impacted on this occasion.

Community pharmacy colleagues should be aware of the actions within the shortage document and ensure timely contact with prescriber when a shortfall in medication is identified.

Isosorbide Mononitrate (Monomil XL): MSAN and SSP

A supply issue with isosorbide mononitrate (Monomil[®] XL) 60mg modified release tablet has been identified. In order to manage stock supplies fairly and effectively, please find the attached UK-wide Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) in addition to the Medicine Supply Alert Notice (MSAN), which allows community pharmacists to substitute a prescription of the noted product with the same quantity but different brand of isosorbide mononitrate 60mg modified release tablet.

Palliative Care Evening Education Series

The Palliative and End-of-Life Care Network has organised a further online evening education session, this time focused on palliative care in respiratory disease. This session will take place on Microsoft Teams and is open to anyone with an interest or involvement in palliative medicine.

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 be awarded to any palliative care pharmacy who attended at least 1 of the 3 training sessions held throughout February, March and April.

CLICK LINK TO REGISTER:

[Palliative care in respiratory medicine with Dr Fiona Thomson, Tuesday 30th April, 6pm.](#)

Smoking Cessation

Joint Position Statement on Tobacco Smoking and Vaping

Last week, the UK, Scottish and Welsh Governments and Northern Ireland Executive announced new measures to protect children and young people from the harm caused by smoking and vaping. This marks an important step towards creating a smoke free generation and helping tackle youth vaping.

Public Health Scotland has published on behalf of the Scottish public health system a position statement on stopping tobacco smoking and youth vaping, reflecting our joined commitment to addressing their detrimental effects on public health.

Within the statement, the importance of collective action to address this public health challenge is underlined within the six areas of action. We hope that this output, the first from the Scottish Public Health System, will help to foster ongoing collaboration and dialogue amongst stakeholders at all levels, so that we can reduce the burden that tobacco smoking and youth vaping place on our communities. The full paper can be read in the PDF attached.

Public Health Update

NHS Grampian April Campaigns

April highlights some important messages, please think about promoting some of these campaigns within your pharmacies. We'll be sharing more information on our Facebook page throughout the month and would be delighted if you can share posts on your own social media platforms.

- Bowel Cancer Awareness Month: [Bowel Cancer | Bowel Cancer UK](#)
- Testicular Cancer Awareness Month: [Macmillan Cancer Support | The UK's leading cancer care charity](#)
- Stress Awareness Month: [The Stress Management Society - From Distress to De-Stress](#)
- 2nd – 8th April World Autism Acceptance Week: [World Autism Acceptance Week 2024](#)
- 7th April World Health Day: [World Health Day](#)
- 11th April, World Parkinson's Day: [Homepage | Parkinson's UK](#)
- 17th April, World Haemophilia Day: [World Hemophilia Day – WFH - World Federation of Hemophilia](#)
- 19th April, Pyjamas for PANCAN: [Pyjamas for PanCan | Pancreatic Cancer Awareness | PCA](#)
- 25th April – 1st May, MS Awareness Week [MS Society UK | Information, research and support | MS Society](#)
- 25th April, On Your Feet Britain [On Your Feet Britain](#)

April NES Pharmacy Update

Please [click here](#) to view the April issue of the NHS Education for Scotland (NES) Pharmacy Update. This issue includes new NES Learning and Education Strategy, pharmacist initial education and training reforms, NES annual virtual conference 2024 and national advanced practice CPD events.

Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



Smoking Cessation Pharmacy Care Record Changes

The Smoking Cessation Support Assessment Tool in the Pharmacy Care Record (PCR) has undergone a refresh to improve the user experience. The newly refreshed tool will launch on Monday, 8th April 2024...

Period of Learning in Practice (PLP) Support for CP IP Trainees

As the delivery of our strategy to have CP IPs in all community pharmacies in Scotland, continues we have an ever growing number of CP IP Employee trainees across the network. Thanks to everyone who supporting this, and to the trainees for their hard work in gaining their IP qualification...



The Happy Place 😊

World Health Day, 7th April 2024

World Health Day is celebrated each year on 7th April, the founding day of the World Health Organisation. The theme for 2024 is “*My health, my right*”, and the message comes during famine, conflict and dangers created by climate change to health. The WHO said: “*This year’s theme was chosen to champion the right of everyone, everywhere to have access to quality health services, education, and information, as well as safe drinking water, clean air, good nutrition, quality housing, decent working and environmental conditions, and freedom from discrimination.*”



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](#)