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**ALL COMMUNITY
PHARMACY CONTRACTORS
IN NHS LANARKSHIRE:
PLEASE SHARE WITH LOCUMS
AND SUPPORT STAFF
AS APPROPRIATE**

Date	01.09.2015
Your Ref	
Our Ref	GL/IM
Enquiries to	George Lindsay
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Dear Colleague,

**PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES AMENDMENTS TO DRUG TARIFF IN RESPECT OF
SPECIAL PREPARATIONS AND IMPORTED UNLICENCED MEDICINES
PCA (P) (2015) 17**

Today marks the introduction of the “Generic Framework for Specials Authorisation Process across Scotland” as described in the above circular. This was distributed to all community pharmacies in NHS Lanarkshire a week or so ago and the circular and the Community Pharmacy Scotland “Key Facts” can be accessed on the links below.

[http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/pca/PCA2015\(P\)17.pdf](http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/pca/PCA2015(P)17.pdf)

<http://www.communitypharmacyscotland.org.uk/media/92509/20150821-Specials-Key-Facts-Updated-27th-August-2015.pdf>

All community pharmacy contractors and staff who are involved in procuring and dispensing specials are strongly encouraged to read these documents.

This is a change of practice within NHS Lanarkshire and we will work with all stakeholders to make it work as effectively as possible. Some of the key points to facilitate this are listed below:

- Everyone has worked hard and effectively over the past few months to greatly reduce the number of unauthorised specials. It is really important that this effort continues for the ethos of the circular remains that unlicensed medicines should only be used when there are good specific clinical reasons to do so. The form attached to this letter facilitates that decision making. Further copies are available via the web link below.

http://www.communitypharmacy.scot.nhs.uk/documents/nhs_boards/lanarkshire/specials/Community_Pharmacist_Request_For_Authorisation_to_Supply_an_Unlicensed_Medicine_01.09.2015.pdf

- The details of when the dispensing of an unlicensed or imported medicine requires Health Board authorisation are within the circular and associated flow chart. This is what NHS Lanarkshire will work to.
- When Health Board authorisation is obtained we will still write to community pharmacist to confirm when authorisation has been given. We have updated our template to show that the authorisation will now be valid for 12 months (unless the authorised price is exceeded by 20%), but community pharmacists no longer need to send that letter into PSD to secure reimbursement.
- The method of reimbursement will be as described in the circular and pharmacists should familiarise themselves with this and make sure that they endorse the prescriptions as appropriate.
- The new system also describes how Health Boards will recover unauthorised expenditure and NHS Lanarkshire will follow that process. I recommend that community pharmacists retain the letters of authorisation received from the HB because this will be a clear detail to resolve any dispute which may arise with the reclaim process.

With any new system there are likely to be learning points over the first few weeks and months. We commit to working constructively with all stakeholders to learn from any issues that arise and will feedback as and when that arises. If there are any learning points you want to share please contact George Lindsay using the details above.

Yours sincerely

George Lindsay

**GEORGE LINDSAY
CHIEF PHARMACIST
PRIMARY CARE**

Catherine Stitt

**CATHERINE STITT
CHAIR
AREA PHARMACY CONTRACTORS COMMITTEE**