



Dear Colleague

14 July 2020

**NHS PHARMACY FIRST
SCOTLAND – INFORMATION
FOR GP PRACTICES**

Purpose

1. This Circular provides information for GP practice teams about the new NHS Pharmacy First Scotland service.

Background

2. The Scottish Government's *Programme for Government 2018/19* included the commitment:-

- We will build on the learning from the extended Minor Ailment Service pilot in Inverclyde and the rollout of the Pharmacy First initiative by developing and implementing a redesigned minor ailment and common conditions service available to all in the coming year.

3. The current Minor Ailment Service will be discontinued and replaced by the new NHS Pharmacy First Scotland which comes into force in community pharmacies as of **29 July 2020**.

Details

Addresses

For Action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards
Medical Directors, NHS Boards
Health and Social Care Partnerships
Primary Care Leads

Enquiries to:

Elaine Muirhead
Pharmacy & Medicines Division
Room 1ER
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG
elaine.muirhead@gov.scot

4. The NHS Pharmacy First Scotland service seeks to encourage people to go to their local pharmacy for support with minor and acute health conditions. It extends access to a wider group of people than those who were able to use the Minor Ailment Service. Individuals who are registered with a GP practice in Scotland, or who live in Scotland, will be eligible to use NHS Pharmacy First Scotland subject to certain exceptions for visitors to Scotland.
5. Pharmacies will undertake an NHS Pharmacy First Scotland consultation and provide advice, treatment or referral to another healthcare professional if appropriate. As well as minor conditions, it will also continue to provide advice and treatment for specific common clinical conditions, starting with uncomplicated UTIs in women and impetigo. Further common clinical conditions will be identified and added in due course.

Resources for GP practices

6. Further information for GP practice staff is available at this [link](#).
7. Discussion between GP surgeries and their local pharmacies is strongly encouraged to develop ways of working which take local needs into account, whilst ensuring a safe and efficient patient journey.

Patient information

8. A leaflet on the new NHS Pharmacy First Scotland service has been developed for members of the public. Hard copies of the leaflet and one poster have already been distributed to GP practices.
9. Additional copies of the patient leaflet can be ordered by sending an email to: stockorders.DPPAS@apsgroup.co.uk Translated versions of the leaflet in Arabic, Bengali, Cantonese, Gaelic, Mandarin, Polish, Punjabi, Romanian, Slovak and Urdu will be available online from 29 July at www.gov.scot/publications.
10. As the Minor Ailment Service will be discontinued, any remaining stocks of Minor Ailment Service leaflets or posters should be recycled once it is replaced by NHS Pharmacy First Scotland on 29 July.

Yours sincerely



Michael Taylor
Senior Policy Manager