

This week's communication has been 'taken over' by an update from Iain Fulton
– Principal Pharmacist: Community Pharmacy, Public Health and South Ayrshire
H&SCP

Principal Pharmacist Update



Dear Community Pharmacy Team

I am delighted to share the news with you that following a nomination I submitted on behalf of our NHS Ayrshire and Arran Community Pharmacy Network for your collective efforts in caring for the citizens of Ayrshire and Arran YOU have been shortlisted as a finalist in this year's Ayrshire Achieves awards!

Many congratulations!

The entry was in the 'caring for people' category and focused on the AMAZING pharmacy first service that is provided from all of our community pharmacies in Ayrshire & Arran.

The full nomination is below for you to read.

The final will be held on the 1st June 2023 and we will of course keep you updated on the outcome of this.

ACTION: Apologies for the short deadline on this request..... In order to prepare the slide show for the awards ceremony I would love to have photos of as many of our community pharmacy teams as possible. I would be extremely grateful if you were able to take a picture of some (or all) of your pharmacy team and send this through to me via WhatsApp for inclusion in the presentation. Please ensure you adhere to your own company's GDPR policy's in terms of ensuring the photo is taken in an appropriate place and that you consider what is in the background. It would be really great if there was a reference to NHS Pharmacy First Scotland such as a poster or leaflet in the hands of one of your team members.

For ease, my mobile number for the pictures via Whatsapp is 07977 941048

Many thanks and congratulations once again on this fantastic achievement!

Iain

Ayrshire Achieves 2023 'Caring for People' Award nomination

Spread between Skerlmorlie and Girvan, Ayr and Muirkirk the network of 99 community pharmacies in Ayrshire and Arran provide pharmaceutical care to our citizens in the heart of their communities.

The NHS pharmacy first Scotland service launched during the COVID pandemic (June 2020) replacing and extending its predecessor – Minor Ailments Service. NHS Pharmacy first Scotland is a national service open to everyone, where citizens can access healthcare advice, treatment and/or referral to other healthcare services without appointment from their local pharmacy.

All 99 of the independent pharmacy contractors operating in the health board area offer this service and the number of patients accessing the service continues to grow month on month.

Through NHS Pharmacy First Scotland, citizens can receive treatment, without charge for a range of self-limiting conditions including a number of conditions that until recently would have required a visit to another healthcare professional such as a GP, or even in some cases, especially out of hours, AUCS or ED.

In the past 12 months (January – December 2022) a remarkable 276,069 NHS Pharmacy First Scotland consultations have been recorded across the A&A pharmacy network.

237,612 supplies of medicines were made, 27,278 consultations occurred where no product was supplied and 11,179 referrals to other healthcare practitioners occurred.

Without pharmacy first, many of the 276,069 consultations would have occurred in another part of our healthcare system, at a time where access was challenging and demand was high, this does not even bear thinking about.

The national service increases access for all. While some citizens may be in a position where they are able to purchase over the counter treatments for minor conditions, many are not and would therefore access primary care services to receive prescriptions for treating minor conditions. Thus in turn adding additional demand at general practice.

The ability for community pharmacists to immediately treat, where appropriate, infective conditions like urinary tract infections (adult females only), impetigo and bacterial skin infections further reduces demand on general practice as well as the knock on impact delayed treatment might have for acute or urgent care services if patient's conditions worsen before treatment.

The referral element of the service allows pharmacy teams to consult a patient and then formally refer them to an appropriate service if they are not able to help. These include community optometry services, dental services, general practice, minor injuries unit, Ayrshire Urgent Care Services (AUCS) and if necessary ED. The ability to make these referrals helps educate our citizens to always think of 'Pharmacy First' when accessing NHS services in Ayrshire & Arran.

Community pharmacies in Ayrshire and Arran have embraced the NHS Pharmacy First Scotland service, and supported by the community pharmacy specialist team within the board have delivered an outstanding contribution towards caring for people in Ayrshire and Arran in 2022 and I believe they are fully deserving of the recognition through an Ayrshire Achieves award.

Iain Fulton – Principal Pharmacist for Community Pharmacy. March 2023.

This Weeks Communication Summary

Monday 17th April: 4 x SG circulars (SSP's)

Thursday 20th April: Class 4 drug alert (Co-Amoxiclav)

KEY COMMUNITY PHARMACY CONTACTS

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<i>The information contained in this communication is issued on the understanding that it is the best available from the resources at our disposal and the opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect Ayrshire & Arran Patient Services' policy</i>			
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