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MEET THE TEAM – Carol Pettigrew



What is your current role? Chief Pharmacy Technician in Primary Care.

How long have you worked in NHS A&A? I joined NHS Ayrshire & Arran in 2014, so 9 years now.

What roles have you previously held? I started my pharmacy career in community pharmacy and moved into Primary Care to work for NHS GGC in 2008. I've held various roles including working for McMillan on a project to support end of life care for patients and working part of a discharge team to support patients at home.

What's the best bit of your job? Working with great teams including at a National level to support developing the various roles and services to ensure the technical team are reaching their potential and supporting patient care.

What do you do to relax outside of work? I enjoy running in the sunshine after a hard day at work....and it's always sunny in Ayrshire & Arran ☺

Stat of the week – Public Health Information



Did you know that 90% of the adult population visit a community pharmacy at least once a year! This presents an important opportunity for pharmacies to motivate and empower their customers to improve their health.

We would like to remind you that all Public Health posters are delivered directly to the pharmacies. Please ensure that all posters provided are displayed. If any pharmacies require a replacement poster holder, please contact APS Group at: stockorders.DPPAS@theapsgroup.com to arrange a replacement.

COMMUNICATIONS SUMMARY

- **Tuesday 16th May** – Class 4 drug alert - Simulect
- **Thursday 18th May** – SG Circular PCA 2023(P)20 – Gluten free foods
- **Thursday 18th May** – E-mail from digital services Re SWAN. (Copied below)

GOOD NEWS STORY



Last week, Marcy (technician) and Emma (MPharm student) from Ogg's pharmacy in Ayr attended a careers fair for primary school children in Ayr town hall. They promoted careers in pharmacy to local children and featured on STV news! (<https://fb.watch/ktV3yuKdRj/>) . Thanks and well done for inspiring young people to consider pharmacy in Ayrshire & Arran as a career option!

Ogg's Pharmacy - Ayr

Please share your good news stories with the community pharmacy team for inclusion in future editions of *Weekly Script*!

Key Messages

****COPY OF E MAIL SENT FROM NHS A&A DIGITAL SERVICES****

Dear All

Please see below from NSS Practitioner Services

Dear Pharmacy Colleagues,

NHS Scotland has recently agreed a replacement contract for the Scottish Wide Area Network (SWAN). Services under the new contract will be provided by BT.

The new contract will allow for better communication, data sharing and collaboration across more than 6,000 sites, including 94 public sector organisations. Schools, hospitals, GP surgeries, pharmacies, every NHS Board and local government offices will benefit from significantly faster and improved fibre broadband.

As part of the new contract Pharmacies will be getting a new and improved SWAN connection to the NHS network provided by BT.

Once your Pharmacy has been identified to be upgraded to the new network, you will be contacted by the ePharmacy Helpdesk to help gather the information needed for us to order your new connection.

*****PLEASE NOTE PAGE 3 OF THIS EDITION - SHARE & LEARN – METHOTREXATE*****

KEY COMMUNITY PHARMACY CONTACTS

CP Team	Community Pharmacy Administration	aa.cpteam@aapct.scot.nhs.uk	01292 513905/513833
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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.

Methotrexate

Background

FOLLOWING A RECENT INCIDENT WHERE A PATIENT ENDED UP ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL AS A RESULT OF A DISPENSING ERROR WE ARE ASKING ALL AYRSHIRE & ARRAN COMMUNITY PHARMACIES TO REVIEW METHOTREXATE DISPENSING WITHIN THE PHARMACY.

A PATIENT WAS DISPENSED METHOTREXATE 10MG TABLETS AGAINST A PRESCRIPTION FOR 2.5MG. THEY TOOK 6 TABLETS AS THEIR WEEKLY DOSE RESULTING IN A 60MG DOSE INSTEAD OF 15MG.

THE PATIENT WAS TREATED IN HOSPITAL AND FOLLOWED UP IN PRIMARY CARE, THANKFULLY THEY CAME TO NO LASTING HARM.

Stock Management

METHOTREXATE 10MG TABLETS SHOULD **NEVER** BE PRESCRIBED AND SHOULD **NOT** BE STOCKED IN COMMUNITY PHARMACIES.

IF YOU DO HAVE STOCK OF THE 10MG TABLETS IN YOUR PHARMACY WE WOULD STRONGLY RECOMMEND DISPOSING OF THESE. IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE THEN THEY SHOULD BE CLEARLY MARKED AND SEGREGATED FROM DISPENSING STOCK.

OUR RECOMMENDATION - SEGREGATE INTO A CLEARLY MARKED AND SEALED BAG AND STORE WITHIN THE CD CABINET

Dispensing Practice

ALWAYS FOLLOW YOUR OWN COMPANY'S SOP'S

WE WOULD ADVISE THAT EXTRA CHECKS ARE IN PLACE WHEN DISPENSING / CHECKING METHOTREXATE IN COMMUNITY PHARMACY SIMILAR TO THOSE THAT WILL BE IN PLACE FOR CONTROLLED DRUGS.

ADDITIONAL CHECKS ON THE **STRENGTH** AND OF THE **FREQUENCY** OF DOSING ARE RECOMMENDED (ENSURE DOSE IS **WEEKLY**)

Actions Required

SHARE THIS COMMUNICATION WITH ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR PHARMACY TEAM INCLUDING LOCUMS

PREFERABLY DISPOSE OF ANY STOCK OF 10MG METHOTREXATE TABLETS IN YOUR PHARMACY. IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, MARK AND SEGREGATE STOCK.

ENSURE ADDITIONAL CHECKS OCCUR WHEN DISPENSING METHOTREXATE