

# Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



## Happy New Year from the Pharmaceutical Care Services team!

*The New Year is often a time for pause and reflection. As this week also marks our 200<sup>th</sup> issue of the weekly community pharmacy update, I thought it would be nice to reflect not only on the last 12 months, but on our 200 updates which started in April 2020.*

*Community pharmacy in Grampian is among the most proactive and service focussed of all the Boards in Scotland. As a network, you consistently deliver high levels of Pharmacy First, Serial Prescriptions and Pharmacy First Plus services.*

*It's always easier to recall the significant challenges the network has faced; impacts of COVID19, drug shortages, workforce shortages, power outages from weather disruptions; but with each of these challenges, the network stepped up, supported each other and the Board to provide a remarkable service to patients across Grampian.*

*When many other services closed their doors, community pharmacies remained open and expanded, providing new and bespoke services to support local communities. Below are a few of these services and pilots which have been introduced in Grampian community pharmacies since April 2020:*

<i>Antiviral prescribing / supply</i>	<i>Basic Life Support training (f2f)</i>	<i>Buvidal administration</i>
<i>CoPPr prescribing / supply</i>	<i>COVID vaccinations</i>	<i>ECS access</i>
<i>GFFS online ordering platform</i>	<i>Gold Standard Pharmacies</i>	<i>NoS Cancer Alliance pathway</i>
<i>Pharmacy First Plus</i>	<i>Prof-Prof OOH pathway</i>	<i>Secondary care collection hubs</i>
<i>Serial Prescriptions: Care Homes</i>	<i>Support for asylum seekers</i>	<i>Travel health vaccination service</i>

*Nationally, we had the roll out of LFD supplies (remember those?!), the migration of the minor ailment service to Pharmacy First, and most recently, the national naloxone holding service.*

*From “bubbling” your workforce into teams and providing out of hours’ home deliveries, to working in headlamps and fleeces to see and keep warm during power outages, the community pharmacy network in Grampian is one to be truly proud of and I express my sincere thanks for your commitment to our patients.*

*2024 will be another challenging year financially, with increasing scrutiny of spend and budgets across SG and local HBs. But it's not all doom and gloom. We look forward to welcoming new independent prescribers to our growing local network. Currently we have 65 live community pharmacist independent prescribers in 54 pharmacies. We have 10 pharmacists preparing to deliver Pharmacy First Plus and another 20 allocated to or working their way through IP courses. By the end of 2024, we should have well over 50% network coverage for Pharmacy First Plus service, an excellent achievement and great preparation for our 2026 MPharm graduates. Thank you to all DPPs who have supported these IPs complete their studies.*

*Many of you will know I am off to pastures new in a few weeks’ time, so I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you for your continued support and wish you all a peaceful and prosperous 2024. It really has been my pleasure to work with you all.*

*Kindest regards,*

We would like to use this issue as an opportunity for reward and recognition of the teams who read this, thank you to those who submitted special mentions and thanks for teams.

- *Thank you to the Webster's New Pitsligo pharmacy team who sent in a picture of their accuracy checking dispenser, Fiona Harley, who has worked in New Pitsligo pharmacy for 39 years - since she left school! Fiona has worked for three different pharmacy owners during her time. Fiona is an invaluable member of the team who always goes the extra mile for patients - so much so that when the phone rings or someone comes in it is always Fiona they ask for!*
- *Thank you to the Dickies Torry pharmacy team who sent in a picture of their qualified dispenser, Iveta. The Dickies team would like to honour Iveta who has been an incredible force within our pharmacy team for a whole decade! Her dedication and unwavering support have been the bedrock of our success. Thank you for being the backbone of our pharmacy team!*
- *Well done to the Buchanhaven Pharmacy who received some very positive customer feedback over the New Year festive public holidays, who attracted patients from Ellon to Fraserburgh and beyond. Keep up the good work!*
- *Thank you to our superb Pharmacy Champions (Anne, Jen, Keira, Matthew and Tatum), who continue to support both the Board and the pharmacy network with their expertise!*



### Save the Date: Training Events

Please see the below list of upcoming training sessions which are taking place in Grampian:

Management of ear conditions in Community Pharmacy	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2024, 7pm - 8.30pm.	To be held on MS Teams - link to register <a href="#">here</a> .
What's ADHD Got To Do With It?	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2024, from 7pm.	Book through Turas Learn here: <a href="#">What's ADHD Got To Do With It?</a>
Primary Care Partnerships – Optometry & Pharmacy	Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 - Ardoe House Hotel, Aberdeen, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm	Book for these events on the <a href="#">Primary Care Partnerships - Pharmacy &amp; Optometry</a> Turas page.

### Smoking Cessation Update

#### Cytisine for smoking cessation

You may remember that Champix (varenicline) was recalled in October 2021 following the detection of N-nitroso-varenicline, a probable human carcinogen, at levels that breach acceptable limits set by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). There is currently no plan on it being available again.

In November 2022, GSK placed an immediate hold on batch release and distribution of bupropion (Zyban) 150mg tablets, having found the potential for the presence of nitrosamine N-nitroso-bupropion at levels above the EMA's temporary acceptable intake limit. There is discussion that Zyban may come back into practice soon, but this is not confirmed.

You may have read that Cytisine will be available in the UK from January 2024 as a prescription only medicine. Cytisine (Tactizen; Aflofarm) is a partial agonist of the  $\alpha 4\beta 2$  nicotinic acetylcholine receptor. This is an exciting development for smoking cessation but please note this is not yet on the Grampian prescribing formulary so please **do not prescribe Cytisine at this time**. We will keep you updated with any changes.

## Public Health Update

### Gold Standard Pharmacy Awards

In June 2023, we recruited 12 pharmacies around Grampian who have been working towards a set criteria to become Gold Standard Pharmacies. The main area of this involved creating an ethos of MEOC (Making Every Opportunity Count) and offering more advanced Public Health services.

We are delighted to say that the following pharmacies are on course to achieve this standard by the end of the month and we'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the pharmacy staff involved, but especially the Public Health Champions who steered the project, undertaking extra training and accountability for pushing the MEOC ethos:

*Bairds King Street – Ona Lee Greig*  
*Bairds Woodside – Ashleigh Taylor*  
*Buchanhaven – Matthew Mitchell*  
*Clarks Keith – Wilma Johnston*  
*Crimond – Emily Mackinnon*  
*Cullen – Heather Sutherland*  
*Ferryhill – Anita Christie*  
*Garthdee – Lynne Lamb*  
*Right Medicine Ardach – Kayla Noble*  
*Summerhill – Karen Dawson and Victoria Guzik*  
*Will Inverurie – Cindy Farquhar*



Well done everyone, your hard work and commitment was appreciated and we hope you enjoy your new pending Gold Standard status!

## NES Pharmacy Update - January 2024

Please [click here](#) to view the January issue of the NHS Education for Scotland (NES) Pharmacy Update. This issue includes pharmacist initial education and training reform, programme of resources, professional development events and pharmacy educational programme updates.

## Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



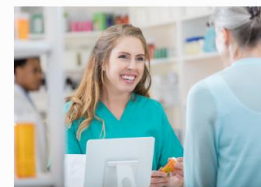
### Physical Assessment Skills Training Pilot

Are you a Designated Supervisor who has not yet started Community Pharmacy IP training? Community Pharmacy Scotland (CPS) and the NES Pharmacy Team are pleased to be working on a pilot for a group of Non-Prescribing DS Pharmacists to undertake a physical assessment skills training day...



### Important - New Local Services Procedure

Each local NHS Health Board has the ability to develop bespoke local pharmacy services to suit the needs of local communities and patients - this is why you find differences across borders in what is asked of you when, for example, supporting people who are prescribed opiate replacement therapy. You will also see that some Health Boards have services that others don't...



We are happy to receive all feedback and comments to improve our communications to you, please don't hesitate to get in touch on [gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot).

All weekly updates are uploaded to the [CP Grampian website](#).

*Please like our Facebook page for regular updates and information:* [Community Pharmacies Delivering NHS Grampian Services](#)