

Community Pharmacy Update

Please share this update with the wider pharmacy team including reliefs and locum pharmacists

INFORMATION: Community Pharmacy Network Event

Community Pharmacy Network Event



EVENING OF THURSDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2026

CENTRESTAGE

15 Elmbank Drive

Kilmarnock

KA1 3AE

All members of the pharmacy team and regular locums are welcome.

We look forward to seeing you there on the night!

ACTION REQUIRED: Prescribing Data Audit

The Community Pharmacy Team has completed its quarterly audit of prescribing data for all Pharmacist Independent Prescribers working in community pharmacy. Following this review, letters have been sent to some prescribers requesting clarification on the rationale for prescribing certain medications. This may relate to non-formulary prescribing, controlled drug prescribing, high-cost items, or other prescribing considerations. Prescribers who have received a letter via their personal nhs.scot account are asked to submit their response within 4 weeks. The response deadline is 5th August 2026.

Thank you to those who have already responded promptly. The Community Pharmacy Team will review all responses after the deadline and provide feedback where appropriate.

INFORMATION: Prescribing Improvement Plan – Quarter Two

Bath and Shower emollients – Review and deprescribe the use of bath and shower emollients as discussed within the Scottish Government guidance document:

[Medicines - achieving value and sustainability in prescribing.](#)

Doxazosin – Review the use of Doxazosin MR as the Scottish Government identified the MR form as an item of low clinical value and should not routinely be prescribed in primary care. There is a significant cost difference compared to once daily immediate release doxazosin.

Mesalazine – Brand switch to Zyduco XL due to the recent launch of the West of Scotland Formulary Gastro-intestinal system chapter, reviewing patients with the aim to switch to Zyduco XL would help improve formulary compliance within NHS Ayrshire & Arran.

Lidocaine – Deprescribe Lidocaine 700mg (equivalent to 5% w/w) medicated plasters (Ralvo® and Versatis®) unless indicated for the symptomatic relief of neuropathic pain associated with previous herpes zoster infection (post-herpetic neuralgia, PHN) in adults.

INFORMATION: Shortages

Shortages are unfortunately a common occurrence and have been for many years. NHS Ayrshire and Arran have a shortages process, which community pharmacy teams should use to attempt to resolve any supply issues before contacting GP pharmacy teams for alternative products.

Further information on shortages is available in the shortages section of the NHS Ayrshire and Arran Community Pharmacy website: [Shortages – NHS Ayrshire & Arran](#)

Please also ensure patients are not sent to hospital for a supply of medications unless this is under the instruction of MSN. This could put added pressure on the acute sites and hospitals who may not have stock to accommodate this.

Information from Previous Communications

INFORMATION: Sick Day Rules/Polypharmacy Guidance

Sick Day Rules were updated in June 2026 to include guidance on SGLT2 inhibitors, and printable patient cards and information leaflets are now available.

In addition, the Right Decisions website is useful for polypharmacy guidance and includes tools for calculating anticholinergic burden, information on associated side effects, and an outline of the seven-step polypharmacy review process.

Information can be found by clicking the link below:

[Polypharmacy guidance: Appropriate prescribing making medicines safe, effective and sustainable 2026-2029 | Right Decisions](#)

INFORMATION: BNF Update To Include Safe Co-Sleeping

Recent evidence from England and Wales, reflected in emerging data in Scotland, shows that a high proportion of sudden unexpected deaths in infancy (SUDI) involve parents or carers under the influence of substances, often alongside unsafe sleeping practices. In response, the British National Formulary (BNF) has updated its guidance to include a cautionary label for medicines that may cause drowsiness, advising that patients who are parents or carers of babies aged up to 12 months should be counselled on the risks of co-sleeping and avoid sharing a sleep surface with a baby. This change, informed by Child Death Overview Panel findings, aims to reduce the risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) by ensuring consistent, evidence-based advice is given, with further information available via:

[Co-sleeping | The Lullaby Trust](#)

RECENT COMMUNICATIONS SUMMARY

Monday 29th June – aa.cpteam - Drug Alert Class 4 – No 30 2026 – Class 4 Medicines Defect Information – Caution In Use – Brancaster Pharma Ltd – Benzylpenicillin Benzathine 1.2 Million I U And 2.4 Million I U Powder For Suspension For Injection

Monday 29th June – aa.cpteam - Drug Alert Class 3 – No 32 2026 – Class 3 Medicines Recall – Action Within 5 Days – Flamingo Pharma Uk Ltd – Flucloxacillin Capsules Bp 500mg

Wednesday 8th July – aa.cpteam - Updated - Drug Alert Class 4 – No 31 2026 – Class 4 Medicines Defect Information – Caution In Use – Relonchem Ltd – Gabapentin Relonchem 50mg/ML Oral Solution

Thursday 9th July – aa.cpteam - Drug Alert Class 2 No 33 - Class 2 Medicines Recall - Action Within 48 Hours – Bristol Laboratories Ltd – Phenoxymethylpenicillin 25mg/5ml Sugar Free Oral Solution Bp

Friday 10th July – ClinicalPCT - Circular PCA2026-(P)-09

KEY COMMUNITY PHARMACY CONTACTS

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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.