Friday 16th October 2026

NHS Ayrshire & Arran

Community Pharmacy Update

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

Antimicrobial Management Group Update

NHS Ayrshire & Arran's Antimicrobial Management Group (AMG) works across primary and secondary care to promote antimicrobial stewardship, optimise prescribing, and help tackle antimicrobial resistance. The AMG has recently welcomed new members from community pharmacy, nursing and dentistry to strengthen representation across all areas of patient care.

We are delighted to welcome Kirsty Hamilton as the AMG's new community pharmacy representative. Kirsty is a pharmacist independent prescriber at Tarbolton Pharmacy and is involved in the education and development of pharmacist prescribers through Teach and Treat, the University of Strathclyde Independent Prescribing programme, and the PSD (formerly NES) National Clinical Skills for Pharmacists Programme.

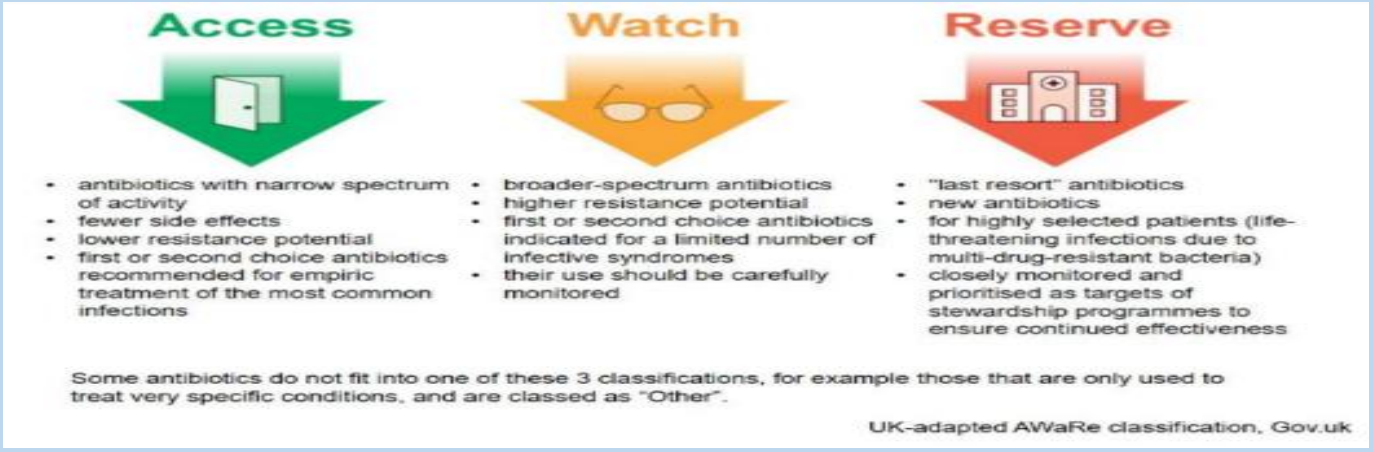
Kirsty aims to strengthen communication between the AMG and community pharmacy, helping to ensure pharmacists and IPs remain up to date with local antimicrobial stewardship priorities, prescribing guidance and best practice. Please feel free to contact Kirsty with any queries by emailing: kirsty.hamilton13@nhs.scot

National Antimicrobial Prescribing Indicators & Targets

In 2019 the UK published its 20-year vision for antimicrobial resistance (AMR). This set the ambitious goal of ensuring AMR will be controlled and contained by 2040. To deliver on this vision, the government committed to producing a series of 5-year national action plans. The second national action plan (NAP), 'Confronting antimicrobial resistance 2024 to 2029', aims to:

- Reduce total human antibiotic consumption by 5% (from 2019 baseline)
- To ensure that 70% of antibiotics used come from the "Access" category

UK Access, Watch, Reserve and Other classification for antibiotics:



The table below shows which category some commonly used antibiotics in primary care belong to. Please note that this does not contain all antibiotics for each category. The full list is available here:



In December 2025, Scottish Government published antibiotic prescribing indicators for primary care, secondary care and dental prescribing to support delivery of the UK NAP targets across Scotland. The supplementary targets for primary care are:

- By 2029, 90% of prescriptions of amoxicillin and 60% for doxycycline in primary care will be for a 5-day course
- By 2029, 85% of prescriptions of trimethoprim and nitrofurantoin for women in primary care will be for 3 days
- By 2029, less than 3% of all antibiotics in primary care will be for co-amoxiclav and ciprofloxacin combined

Alongside the secondary care and dental targets, improving prescribing practice from all prescribing clinicians in primary care against these targets is the focus of the AMG.

Update to Scottish Palliative Care Guidelines

There has been a significant number of guideline updates to the Scottish Palliative Care Guidelines. A newsletter has been developed by Healthcare Improvement Scotland advising of key highlights, please find this as an attachment to the Community Pharmacy Update.

Discontinuation of Levemir

Levemir is being discontinued with stock expected to be depleted by December 2026. Whilst both Secondary Care and Primary Care are actively switching patients to an appropriate alternative, some patients may not attend reviews and therefore may not be aware of this being discontinued. If a patient is unaware and still receiving Levemir prescriptions, please advise them to contact their Diabetes Team to be reviewed. Please see attached National Patient Safety Alert.

Newly Qualified Independent Prescribers

Once the GPhC register has been updated you can apply for IP pads by emailing: aa.cpteam@aapct.scot.nhs.uk
Do not use the QR code, this is for repeat order IP pads only.
Please note that the process from obtaining an IP code and then receiving printed Rx pads can take up to 12 weeks dependant on order cut off dates at PSD.



Happy Pharmacy Technician Day – 20th October 2026

Tuesday 20th October is Pharmacy Technician Day, so let's celebrate our fantastic Technicians and the invaluable contribution they make to our teams!

Pharmacy Technicians play a vital role in delivering safe, effective and person - centred pharmacy services across primary care, acute and community pharmacy settings. Thank you to everyone who contributes to supporting excellent patient care every day.

Information from Previous Communications

ScotPharm Training

ScotPharm Training was established to support pharmacists in developing the practical clinical skills needed to assess, diagnose and manage patients via Pharmacy First Plus. Founded by experienced pharmacist independent prescribers and educators, Kirsty Hamilton and Maxine McCabe, our aim is to provide high-quality, hands-on training that helps bridge the gap between qualification and day-to-day practice.

We offer bespoke training sessions for pharmacy groups and multiples across Scotland, tailored to the needs of individual organisations. Topics include common clinical conditions, physical examination skills, consultation skills and clinical history-taking.

Whether supporting foundation year trainees, pharmacists undertaking prescribing training, newly qualified prescribers or experienced IP pharmacists expanding their scope of practice, our training is designed to be practical, relevant and immediately applicable.

Alongside our commissioned training, we deliver Full-Day Clinical Skills Training Courses that can be booked through our website. These interactive courses combine clinical teaching with hands-on skills development and cover:

· Respiratory Masterclass
· Ear examination and common ear conditions
· Oral, throat and lymph node examination and conditions
· Nasal conditions
· Dermatology
· Consultation skills
· Clinical history-taking

We are delighted to be bringing our next Clinical Skills Day to Hamilton on 22 November 2026, followed by Edinburgh in January 2027.

To find out more about our courses or discuss bespoke training for your pharmacy team, visit ScotPharm Training Courses.

To join our mailing list and hear about future events first, email scotpharmtraining@gmail.com.

RECENT COMMUNICATIONS SUMMARY

Tuesday 6th October – aa.cpteam – Class 3 Drug Alert No 41 2026 – Norgine Ltd - Movicol Plain 13.7g powder for oral solution

Friday 9th October – ClinicalPCT – Mouth Care Action Month 2026

Monday 12th October - aa.cpteam – Class 2 Drug Alert No 37 2026 – Norgine Ltd – Pedmarqsi 80mg/ml solution for infusion

Monday 12th October – ClinicalPCT – AN2026-02 and CAN534 V1

Tuesday 13th October – ClinicalPCT – PCA 2026-(P)18 and PCA 2026-(P) 19

Wednesday 14th October – ClinicalPCT – DSI/2026/013

Thursday 15th October – aa.cpteam - Updated Dental Guidance with Relevance for Pharmacists, Chief Pharmaceutical Officer Letter - 15 October 2026

KEY COMMUNITY PHARMACY CONTACTS

CP Team	Community Pharmacy Administration and general enquiries	aa.cpteam@aapct.scot.nhs.uk	01292 513905/513833
Kirstie Williams	Principal Pharmacist, Community Pharmacy, Public Health & SA HSCP	Kirstie.williams@aapct.scot.nhs.uk	07970 439225
Alyson Stein	Senior Pharmacist, Primary Care & Community Pharmacy	alyson.stein@aapct.scot.nhs.uk	
Shannon Ormsby	Senior Pharmacist, Primary Care & Community Pharmacy	Shannon.ormsby2@aapct.scot.nhs.uk	07385 391392
Alan McGeer	Senior Pharmacist, Primary Care & Community Pharmacy	Alan.mcgeer@aapct.scot.nhs.uk	07827 840326
Lorraine Tait	Pharmacy Technician Primary Care and Community Pharmacy	Lorraine.tait@aapct.scot.nhs.uk	
Laura Mercer-Stewart	Pharmacy Technician Primary Care and Community Pharmacy	Laura.mercer-stewart@aapct.scot.nhs.uk	
Fiona Knight	Palliative Care Pharmacist – Ayrshire Hospice	Fiona.knight@ayrshirehospice.org	01292 269200 Ext. 495
Sharleen Bell	Controlled Drug Inspection Officer	Sharleen.bell@aapct.scot.nhs.uk	01292 513822
Alex Adam	Specialist Pharmacist in Substance Misuse	Alexander.adam@aacpt.scot.nhs.uk	07557 083093
ePharmacy Facilitator	Facilitator, Digital Services	aa.digitalservicescommunityfacilitators@aapct.scot.nhs.uk	

PRIMARY CARE CONTACTS

Primary Care Pharmacy Contracts Team	Primary Care Contracts general enquiries	ClinicalPCT@aapct.scot.nhs.uk	
Anne Shaw Carolyn Dickson	Primary Care Manager, Pharmacy and Optometry	Anne.shaw2@aapct.scot.nhs.uk	07805 248789
Carolyn Dickson	Assistant Primary Care Manager	Carolyn.Dickson@aapct.scot.nhs.uk	07557114209

GENERAL ENQUIRIES EMAIL: aa.cpteam@aacpt.scot.nhs.uk

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.