

# NHS Ayrshire & Arran Community Pharmacy Update

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

## **ACTION REQUIRED: PGDs**

The AUCS/Hospital Discharge PGD was reviewed in March 2026. Please read and electronically sign the new PGD which can be found by clicking the link below.

[Patient Group Directions \(PGDs\) – NHS Ayrshire & Arran](#)

## **ACTION REQUIRED: C Card Supply & STI Testing Kits**

Please check you have adequate stock of C Card supplies & STI testing kits and ensure these are in date. We encourage pharmacists to offer both of these services opportunistically during EHC or Bridging Contraception consultations.

Information on how to order can be found by clicking the link below and information found under 'Condom Supply' or 'Chlamydia & Gonorrhoea Testing & Chlamydia Treatment'.

[Pharmacy Services – NHS Ayrshire & Arran](#)

Information for replacing STI testing kits:

- **SWABS/SAMPLE FLUID IN THE KITS HAVE AN EXPIRY DATE** – please ensure you check the date on these before providing to patients. When these expire, please dispose of them appropriately. To reduce waste, **DO NOT** throw away all contents of the kit in this instance, and instead email the Sexual Health Team at [aa-uhb.shbbv@aapct.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:aa-uhb.shbbv@aapct.scot.nhs.uk) to request a new supply of swabs to add to your existing kit.

'C Card' Training:

- Pharmacies who have not completed the training have been emailed with the training materials on 8<sup>th</sup> April and requested to email the Sexual Health Team once training has been completed. Thank you for completing this at your earliest convenience.

# Information from Previous Communications

## INFORMATION: Pregnancy Test Pilot

This service is for young people between the ages of 13-18 years old who can obtain a free pregnancy test from one of these pharmacies. Please click the link below to find the pharmacies taking part in the Pregnancy Test Pilot in Ayrshire & Arran which will run until May 2026. If you are not participating in this pilot but identify an appropriate patient suitable for this service, please refer on to one of the participating pharmacies.

[Pregnancy Test Pilot Pharmacies](#)

## INFORMATION: ePharmacy Customer Helpdesk Change to Opening Hours

Please note that from **1 April 2026**, the ePharmacy Customer Helpdesk opening hours will change following the introduction of the reduced working week.

### **New opening hours:**

- **Monday to Thursday:** 08:30 – 16:30
- **Friday:** 08:30 – 15:00

## ACTION REQUIRED: CP4 Paper Forms

Please do not send CP4 paper forms to NSS. All pharmacy led service claims (CP4) must be sent electronically via your PMR system.

Only CP3 form (MCR registration) should be sent for scanning.

If CP4 forms are not required for your internal procedures, printing can be deactivated through the relevant menu options within your PMR system. This functionality is typically located within the section that displays all Universal Claims Framework (UCF) services, where printing can be disabled at the individual UCF clinical service level.

Where a CP4 form is necessary to support the transfer of medication information to a patient's GP practice, the form will continue to print regardless of the disabled setting. These mandatory forms are identifiable by the printed wording "Send to GP" in the lower-left corner.

Please continue to send CP4 forms which state "Send to GP" to the relevant GP practice as it is crucial that GP practices are aware of prescribing for their registered patients.

# Information from Previous Communications

## **INFORMATION: West of Scotland Formulary – Changes to Inhaler Products**

Due to the West of Scotland formulary review, there will be changes to inhaler products being recommended locally.

The most noticeable change will be a move from Fostair MDI to Proxor MDI (identical ingredients and inhaler technique).

The primary care pharmacy team will be working on this switch in the coming months, starting in April once the new formulary is published. Updated local guidelines for asthma will be shared in due course.

Primary care teams will liaise with their local Community Pharmacies to understand the Fostair stock levels before switching any patients.

## **ACTION REQUIRED: New PGDs**

There are two new PGDs:

- Skin Inflammation (Hydrocortisone 1% Cream/Ointment)
- Oral Thrush (Nystatin 100,000u/mL Oral Suspension)

Please read and electronically sign the new PGDs which can be found by clicking the link below. Please also remember to complete the relevant NES Turas Learn.

[Patient Group Directions \(PGDs\) – NHS Ayrshire & Arran](#)

## **INFORMATION: Change to Asthma Guidelines to MART Regime**

Changes to treatment of chronic asthma now no longer recommends a short-acting bronchodilator agonist (SABA) such as a salbutamol to be prescribed as first-line treatment.

The MHRA issued a warning of the risk of severe asthma attacks and increased mortality associated with overuse of SABA inhalers, both when prescribed with and without steroid inhalers and therefore this has prompted a change to SABA prescribing guidelines.

The updated NICE guidelines can be found by clicking the link below.

[NICE Asthma: diagnosis, monitoring and chronic asthma management](#)

## **ACTION REQUIRED: Apremilast (Otezla)**

Apremilast (Otezla) came off patent in January 2026, resulting in a significant reduction in the cost of generic products.

To ensure cost efficiencies, strengthen medicines governance, and improve oversight of patient care, NHS Ayrshire & Arran (NHS AA) will repatriate prescribing from GP practices and dispensing from community pharmacies to secondary care.

Key Points for Community Pharmacy Teams:

- Please continue to dispense existing Apremilast prescriptions where these are presented by patients
- Ensure careful management of any remaining stock, noting this remains a high-cost medicine.
- Patients who are repatriated to the new pathway will receive their medication via home delivery. Secondary care pharmacy teams will support this transition and provide further information to patients as required.

Thank you for your cooperation and support during this transition.

## RECENT COMMUNICATIONS SUMMARY

### Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March

aa.cpteam – Drug Alert Class 2 No 18 2026 – Bio Products Laboratory Ltd Human Rabies Immunoglobulin

### Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March

aa.cpteam - Class 2 Drug Alert No 18 2026 - Medicines Recall – Action Within 48 Hours – Bio Products Laboratory Limited – Human Normal Immunoglobulin 500iu Solution For Injection

### Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April

aa.cpteam – NatPSA 2026 003 – shortage of Dinoprostone 3mg vaginal tablets and 1mg/2.5ml 2mg/2.5ml vaginal gel

### KEY COMMUNITY PHARMACY CONTACTS

CP Team	Community Pharmacy Administration	<a href="mailto:aa.cpteam@aapct.scot.nhs.uk">aa.cpteam@aapct.scot.nhs.uk</a>	01292 513905/513833
Kirstie Williams	Principal Pharmacist, Community Pharmacy, Public Health & SA HSCP	<a href="mailto:Kirstie.williams@aapct.scot.nhs.uk">Kirstie.williams@aapct.scot.nhs.uk</a>	07970 439225
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Alex Adam	Specialist Pharmacist in Substance Misuse	<a href="mailto:Alexander.adam@aapct.scot.nhs.uk">Alexander.adam@aapct.scot.nhs.uk</a>	07557 083093
ePharmacy Facilitator	Facilitator, Digital Services	<a href="mailto:aa.digitalservicescommunityfacilitators@aapct.scot.nhs.uk">aa.digitalservicescommunityfacilitators@aapct.scot.nhs.uk</a>	

### PRIMARY CARE CONTACTS

Anne Shaw	Primary Care Manager, Pharmacy and Optometry	<a href="mailto:Anne.shaw2@aapct.scot.nhs.uk">Anne.shaw2@aapct.scot.nhs.uk</a>	07805 248789
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**GENERAL ENQUIRIES EMAIL: [aa.cpteam@aapct.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:aa.cpteam@aapct.scot.nhs.uk)**

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