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Pharmacy, Ayr

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Meet the Team – Lesley Kelly



What is your current role?
Pharmacy Technician, Well
Pharmacy, Ayr.

How long have you
worked in community
pharmacy?
38 years!

What's the best bit of
your job?

The best bit of my job is
working with my colleagues in
the pharmacy.
I also love being able to help
solve problems for our
customers. When I am able to
do this I really appreciate their
gratitude and their happy faces
make me feel like I've made a
difference.

What do you think about the future of community pharmacy?

I think there are exciting times ahead with new developments within Community Pharmacy. Particularly relating to more and more Pharmacists achieving the IP qualification.

Having worked in Community Pharmacy for 38 years I have seen loads of changes over the years but also I've seen how extra services being offered can put pressure on Pharmacy staff.

What do you do to relax outside of work?

I love to spend time with my children, especially supporting my son with amateur boxing.

I also really enjoy long walks with my dogs.


COMMUNICATIONS SUMMARY

Tuesday 2nd July: aa.cpteam – Class 3 Drug Alert: Atomoxetine capsules

Thursday 4th July: aa.cpteam – Class 2 Drug Alert: Itraconazole solution

This Weeks Key Messages

Topiramate – MHRA Guidance



**WARNING FOR WOMEN
WHO ARE ABLE
TO BECOME PREGNANT**

- This medicine can seriously harm an unborn child.
- Always use highly effective contraception during your treatment with Topiramate.
- If you become pregnant, talk to your doctor straight away.
- If you have epilepsy, do not stop taking this medicine unless your doctor tells you to.

Please read the Package Leaflet, Patient Guide and Patient Card for further information
Date of Approval: 31 May 2024

As you will be aware there has been a recent MHRA drug safety update outlining the introduction of new safety measures for women of child-bearing potential being prescribed topiramate.

<https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/topiramate-topamax-introduction-of-new-safety-measures-including-a-pregnancy-prevention-programme#dispensers>

For ease, the information for dispensers has been reproduced below:

- A visual warning symbol will be added to the pack of topiramate. This symbol will show a pregnant woman in a red circle with a line through it, with warning text about the risks and information about the new measures
- Until warning symbols are present on packs, stickers will be available to print locally on [EMC - via this link](#)
- Pharmacists should dispense in whole packs whenever possible. This will ensure that patients always see the warning symbol and receive the statutory information
- Pharmacists should give the patient card to female patients when dispensing topiramate
- ask women or girls of childbearing potential if they are taking highly effective contraception, if they are not, pharmacists should advise them to contact their GP for a follow-up appointment

Coming Soon – Simulation sessions for Community Pharmacy IP's

Following the great success of the simulation sessions held in 2023 we have added additional team members to the faculty and plan to run further simulation sessions for community pharmacist independent prescribers in October / November this year. Keep a look out in **Weekly Script** for dates and booking details.

Exciting Update – Community Pharmacy Protected Learning Time (PLT)

Following requests from our contractors NHS A&A colleagues have been working with Community Pharmacy A&A to develop a protected learning time (PLT) opportunity for community pharmacy teams. We are almost ready to launch this programme and hope it will be appreciated by all of our community pharmacy teams.

Further information will be sent to A&A pharmacies via a separate communication next week.

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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.