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## Meet the Team – Sharon Fraser



*What is your current role?*

I started with an Independent Pharmacy then worked for Boots, Lloyds then Ayr Pharmacy, where I currently work as an Accuracy Checking Technician.

*How long have you worked in community pharmacy?*

I have worked in Pharmacy for 35 years, starting as a front shop Counter Assistant before working my way up to an ACT, a job I love.

*What's the best bit of your job?*

The best bit of my job is engaging with different people each day and helping to find solutions to any problems which may arise. Another great bit of my job is working as a team within the Pharmacy, where I feel I am valued for the work I do, I feel I'm a positive team player.

*What do you think about the future of community pharmacy?*

Community Pharmacy plays a vital role in any setting, more and more people are aware now to visit the pharmacy first before their GP. There is so much pharmacy can do now like vaccines, Pharmacy First, PGDs etc. It is a valuable asset to the Community!

*What do you do to relax outside of work?*

I like to walk my 3 dogs! Not all at once I stress!

I also like eating out and have a nice wine. I also like meeting up with my friends and have regular lunch dates.

### Good News Story!

*Fiona and the team at Ayr Pharmacy had a Good News Story to share this week*

An incident recently took place at Ayr Pharmacy, Sharon (ACT) spotted that an elderly gentleman had fallen just outside the pharmacy and hurt himself. Sharon took him inside the pharmacy and into the consult room to give him some privacy. Sharon employed some first aid to help dress his injuries, particularly to his leg and ribs. The man was very shaken as a result of his ordeal and members of the pharmacy staff did their best to help calm him and after some time the gentleman was able to contact his wife and return home as was his wish. The man subsequently returned to Ayr Pharmacy with his wife who had made some homemade tablet to thank the staff for their efforts.

Good job to team at Ayr Pharmacy!

Please share your good news stories with the community pharmacy team for inclusion in future editions of *Weekly Script!*

### COMMUNICATIONS SUMMARY

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July** – Clinical PCT – VOIP Phones

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July** – Clinical PCT – Safety Alert – Epimax

Clinical PCT – September proforma

aa.cpteam – Class 4 Drug Alert – Propantheline 15mg tabs

### This Weeks Key Messages

#### **Rybelsus (Semaglutide) tablets**

There has been an incident reported where a patient previously prescribed the injectable GLP-1 Trulicity, which was switched to Rybelsus (Semaglutide) tablets due to the shortage, has had the outstanding 'balance' delivered when the Trulicity shortage resolved resulting in the patient taking both the oral tablets and injection. Communication has been sent out to pharmacotherapy teams to keep Community Pharmacies informed when such switches are required, in order to minimise the risk of such incidents occurring. We ask that Community Pharmacy teams remain vigilant also to such risks when clearing balances of shortage medications or dispensing from Serial Rx.

Relating to the same medicine; there have been some instances reported where patients prescribed Rybelsus (Semaglutide) tablets have been supplied this medication in blister packs. This is not appropriate due to the nature of this drug. It must be taken on an empty stomach with no other medication for at least 30 minutes and with a strict amount of water. Below is a reminder of the counselling for this drug.

Also see below for the SPC relating to this medicine for further reading -

<https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/11507/smpc>

**How do I store RYBELSUS®?**

Store in the original package in order to protect from light and moisture. This medicine does not require any special temperature storage conditions.

**Why is it important to take my tablet on an empty stomach?**

Taking RYBELSUS® on an empty stomach is important, as any kind of food, beverages, or oral medications may prevent RYBELSUS® from entering your bloodstream and taking effect.

**Can I take the tablet with anything other than water?**

No. The effectiveness of RYBELSUS® has not been studied with any other type of drink.

**Why is it important to wait at least 30 minutes before eating, drinking, or taking other oral medication?**

RYBELSUS® may not work properly if you eat, drink, or take other oral medication within 30 minutes after taking RYBELSUS®.

**What should I do if I forgot to take a dose?**

If you forgot to take a dose, the missed dose should be skipped. The next dose should be taken the following day. Do not take a double dose.

## **Disclosure of Rape or Sexual Assault – Guidance Document for Healthcare Professionals**

The Sexual Assault Response Coordination Services (SARCS) Network is delighted to share with you its updated and digitised guidance.

This guidance has been co-produced with a wide range of professionals working in many settings across the NHS and is for any healthcare professionals working across NHS Scotland who may receive a disclosure of sexual assault or rape.

This document supersedes the previous guidance hosted on the Scottish Government website and can be accessed here: [Disclosure of rape or sexual assault \(SARCS\) | Right Decisions \(scot.nhs.uk\)](#)

## **Simulation sessions for Community Pharmacy IP's**

As promised, we now have dates for our first simulations sessions of 2024.

The aim of our sessions is to create a supportive learning opportunity in an entirely safe and confidential space to enhance our legacy community pharmacy prescribers' confidence and skills in delivering Pharmacy First Plus. The added bonus is a network opportunity to get to know other community pharmacy prescribers within A&A!

**There will be 2 sessions planned. The dates are as follows:**

- **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October**
- **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November**

**Each session will run from 0900 - 1300 hours.**

**The venue for this will be in the Education Centre at Crosshouse Hospital.**

**Sessions will be limited to a maximum of 4 people per session.**

If you are interested in attending, please email Kirstie Church [kirstie.church@aapct.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:kirstie.church@aapct.scot.nhs.uk) by **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August**.

Further information will be sent out as a MEMO to individual prescribers.

## 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.

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
Iain Fulton	Principal Pharmacist, Community Pharmacy, Public Health & SA HSCP	<a href="mailto:iain.fulton@aapct.scot.nhs.uk">iain.fulton@aapct.scot.nhs.uk</a>	01292 513831 / 07977 941048
Kirstie Church	Senior Pharmacist, Primary Care & Community Pharmacy (East)	<a href="mailto:Kirstie.church@aapct.scot.nhs.uk">Kirstie.church@aapct.scot.nhs.uk</a>	07970439225
Alan McGeer	Senior Pharmacist, Primary Care & Community Pharmacy (South)	<a href="mailto:Alan.mcgeer@aapct.scot.nhs.uk">Alan.mcgeer@aapct.scot.nhs.uk</a>	07827840326
Adam Russell	Palliative Care Pharmacist – Ayrshire Hospice	<a href="mailto:Adam.russell@ayrshirehospice.org">Adam.russell@ayrshirehospice.org</a>	
Sharleen Bell	Controlled Drug Inspection Officer	<a href="mailto:Sharleen.bell@aapct.scot.nhs.uk">Sharleen.bell@aapct.scot.nhs.uk</a>	01292 513822
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
Laura Gill	Facilitator, Digital Services	<a href="mailto:Laura.gill@aapct.scot.nhs.uk">Laura.gill@aapct.scot.nhs.uk</a>	01292 513742
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>	
GENERAL ENQUIRIES EMAIL: <a href="mailto:aa.cpteam@aapct.scot.nhs.uk">aa.cpteam@aapct.scot.nhs.uk</a>			

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