



Pharmacy Services

NHS Ayrshire & Arran Community Pharmacy

Weekly Script

Friday 20th December 2024.

No: 51



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Iain Fulton

Associate Director of
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Dear Pharmacy Team

This year, you, the community pharmacy network in Ayrshire and Arran have achieved so much!

- Over 360,000 NHS Pharmacy First Scotland consultations have taken place, this is 10% more than in 2023!
- Our award winning hospital discharge service also continues to support rapid discharge from the acute hospital sites and feedback received shows that your patients love this service and that pharmacy teams enjoy delivering this service.

- Vaccination activity has increased again this year and as well as the flu service we have COVID vaccinations being delivered from a community pharmacy on Arran to support the island population.
- Protected learning time for community pharmacy teams was introduced successfully and will be continued in 2025.

I know that these are just the tip of the iceberg of services that you provide to your patients and the citizens of Ayrshire and Arran every day and on behalf of the Health Board I would like to thank you for everything that you do as a part of our primary and community care team to support and care for patients. I would also like to show my appreciation for the close working relationship my team and I have with Community Pharmacy A&A (pharmacy contractors committee) who continue to consider and explore opportunities to work together to develop services to support the population of Ayrshire and Arran

As many of you will know, my role within the Pharmacy Team has changed and I am now in post as the Associate Director of Pharmacy for Primary and Community Care. I still have community pharmacy in my portfolio of responsibility and therefore will remain close to you all and the services you deliver. In addition I will remain as the vice-chair of the national primary care community pharmacy leads group and also continue to locum regularly in A&A community pharmacies where I hope that my influence and experience as well as advocacy for Ayrshire and Arran will benefit all of you.

I'm delighted to be able to share the news with you that Kirstie Church has been appointed as the Principal Pharmacist for community pharmacy and public health. Kirstie has been in the community pharmacy team for several years now and will be known to all of you. I'm sure you will ensure Kirstie receives the same support I have benefitted from over the last few years and that together you will ensure NHS Ayrshire and Arran community pharmacy goes from strength to strength.

I would also like to thank the rest of the community pharmacy team; Alan McGeer (senior pharmacist) and Lorraine and Laura – the newly appointed pharmacy technicians for all their hard work in supporting you, your teams and I throughout the year. As you know, Alyson Stein (senior pharmacist) has been off this year on maternity leave but we are delighted that Alyson will be returning to the team in February.

Thanks also to Kaz, Caitlin and Margaret our admin team who many of you will speak to regularly and to my Primary Care Contracts colleagues Anne Shaw, Carolyn Dickson, Margaret Carey and Michelle Sloan who also work hard all to support pharmacy contractors all year round.

Finally, I would like to wish all of you a very merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year and I know that under Kirstie's leadership 2025 will be successful for all of you.

With best wishes, *Iain*

THIS WEEK'S COMMUNICATIONS SUMMARY

Friday 13th: ClinicalPCT – Weekly communication for week ending 13/12/24

Thursday 19th : aa.cpteam – Class 4 drug alert VYGART solution for injection

This Weeks Key Messages

Festive Pressures – Working together for the patient

It is the time of year where all services are under pressure due to demand on our healthcare system. Pharmacy is no different be that community, primary care or acute services.

Over the coming days there is likely to be an increase in patients being discharged from our hospitals as we support patient to be at home over the festive period and therefore inevitably more MDS patients being discharged.

Compliance aid patients leaving the acute sites on 18th and 19th December have been issued with double MDS packs to relieve pressure in the Christmas week for community pharmacies.

As a reminder, you will automatically receive notification when an MDS patient is admitted and an electronic copy of their immediate discharge letter (IDL) when they are discharged. This will give you details of when the patient was discharged allowing you to make any required changes before their next MDS is required.

Given the reduced working days over the festive period please communicate with the pharmacy teams in GP practices and use the resources / services you have available to help ease pressure and ensure patients get required medicines in time.

Electronic IDL's, Emergency Care Summary and GP practice pharmacy teams are all excellent sources of information and the unscheduled care service can be used in the absence of a prescription in many circumstances.

Liraglutide update

Diavic® (Liraglutide) is now available for prescribing for the treatment of type 2 diabetes mellitus as an adjunct to diet and exercise. It is manufactured by Sun Pharma and can be ordered by Community Pharmacies exclusively via Alliance Healthcare.

This medication is not currently on the formulary but is expected to be added early next year. Prescriptions will be issued from GP practices for this medication. We have asked prescribers to write this as the brand (Diavic®) to ensure the correct product is given.

Coming soon – Lunch and Learn

On 22/1/25 at 1pm a 30 minute bitesize session on Nitazenes and Xylazenes will be presented on Microsoft Teams which would be really interesting and beneficial for primary care and community pharmacists. **The link to the MS teams event will be shared nearer the time.**

Prostate Cancer Service

A reminder to all pharmacies who participate in the prostate cancer service:

The SLA specifies that Enzalutamide stock should ONLY be purchased directly from the manufacturer, Astellas. While alliance healthcare are used to distribute the stock the orders from community pharmacies should be placed directly with Astellas. (Details in excerpt from the SLA below)

MEDICINE RESOURCING REQUIREMENTS	All orders must be placed with the manufacturer (Astellas) directly by telephone or email. Astellas Customer Service can be contacted on 0203 379 8721 or email ukcustomerservices@astellas.com .
	If problems in accessing the medicine via this supply route cannot be resolved through direct dialogue with Astellas, contact the Health Board. Do not purchase from any other supply route without the approval of the Health Board.

KEY COMMUNITY PHARMACY CONTACTS

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