

NHS Ayrshire & Arran Community Pharmacy Update

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

ACTION REQUIRED: Community Pharmacy Network Event

We are delighted to invite you and your team to our **Community Pharmacy Network Event** on **Thursday 3 September 2026** at CentreStage, Kilmarnock. The evening will begin with a buffet and refreshments from **5.30pm**, followed by the main event from **6.30pm**.

This will be a fantastic opportunity for the whole pharmacy team to come together, network with colleagues from across Ayrshire and Arran, hear about key developments in community pharmacy, and celebrate the important contribution made by our workforce every day.

For pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, the event will also provide valuable learning and reflection opportunities that can support your **CPD and professional development**.

All members of the pharmacy team and regular locums are welcome to attend. We encourage contractors to support attendance from across their teams.

Thursday 3 September 2026

📍 CentreStage, 15 Elmbank Drive, Kilmarnock, KA1 3AE

🕒 Buffet and refreshments from 5.30pm

🕒 Event starts at 6.30pm

Please register using this link: [2026 Community Pharmacy Network Event](#) or by scanning the QR code below.

We look forward to seeing you there.



ACTION REQUIRED: Change to LMWH Formulary Choice

Work is underway to support a transition from Dalteparin to Enoxaparin as the preferred treatment-dose low molecular weight heparin (LMWH). Over the coming months, preparations will focus on ensuring a smooth and safe implementation across services. In anticipation of this change, pharmacies may wish to review their current Dalteparin stock levels and consider reducing future orders where appropriate.

INFORMATION: Steroid Emergency Card

Adrenal Crisis is a medical emergency and failure to recognise and treat promptly can be fatal. Information and printable steroid cards can be found by clicking the link below:

[HIS-steroid-emergency-card-appendix-aw6458.pdf](#)

ACTION REQUIRED: Renew ePharmacy Certificates by 25th Aug 2026

"The ePharmacy root certificate is due to expire on 14 September 2026. To avoid any disruption to ePharmacy services, affected pharmacies must renew and install their replacement certificate by Tuesday 25 August 2026.

Moreover, it's important to note that without this certificate, ePharmacy messaging will not function properly. This means that you will be unable to submit claims or request prescriptions electronically. Consequently, no payment claims for electronic-only services can be processed. This situation will directly impact pharmacy reimbursement as well as overall usability.

Please note:

- **Boots, Well and Rowlands** – Your IT Department will manage the renewal.
- **Rx Web** – Lanas will handle the certificates for ePMS access and messaging. However, the client certificates for PCR UA need to be installed on the local desktop and are specific to each pharmacy.
- **Cegedim Rx Pharmacy Manager** - The central message broker will have their certificate renewed by the central Cegedim team.
- **Positive Solutions and Proscript** - Users are required to follow their usual process and the outlined details in the PIN letter sent for certificate renewal.
- **Superdrug** – Your PMR supplier will assist in your certificate renewal.
- **Asda** - Your PMR supplier will assist with your certificate renewal."

Please click here for more information:

[NSS: Renew ePharmacy Certificates by 25th August 2026 | Community Pharmacy Scotland](#)

INFORMATION: Cervical Screening Self-Sampling Kits

Cervical screening self-sampling kits are now available in selected GP practices across Ayrshire & Arran.

Posters promoting this service will be distributed to pharmacies located near participating GP practices during the Community Pharmacy Team's next quarterly visits.

Please refer to the leaflet attached to this email for further information about the service, including details of the GP practices currently offering self-sampling kits.

INFORMATION: Bedfont Smokerlyzer® Breath CO Testing Devices Information

D-Piece® Replacement Requirements

To maintain effective infection control standards, the D-Piece® MUST BE REPLACED at least once every month.

- Replace the D-Piece® every month regardless of usage levels
- Inspect regularly for signs of contamination, wear or damage
- Replace immediately if contamination or damage is suspected
- Use only genuine Bedfont-approved replacement components.

Approved Cleaning Products

Only alcohol-free cleaning wipes should be used when cleaning Smokerlyzer® equipment.

Recommended examples include: Clinell Universal Alcohol-Free Wipes, Azomax Universal Wipes (by Vernacare), Clinell Universal Wipes (by Gama Healthcare), Clinell Clorox Wipes (by Gama Healthcare), AF3 Sani-cloth Germicidal Disposable Wipe (by PDI).

Critical Warning – Alcohol-Based Products

DO NOT use products containing any form of alcohol on or near the Smokerlyzer® device.

Exposure to alcohol can adversely affect sensor performance and may result in inaccurate readings, premature sensor degradation or device damage.

Clinical Environment Considerations

- Ensure hands are dry and free from alcohol sanitiser residue before testing.
- Avoid use of aerosolised alcohol products in the testing area.
- Ensure nearby surfaces have not recently been treated with alcohol-based products.
- Store the device away from alcohol-containing products whenever possible.

Summary

- ✓ Replace the D-Piece® monthly.
- ✓ Use only alcohol-free cleaning wipes.
- ✓ Follow Bedfont cleaning recommendations.
- ✓ Keep alcohol-containing products away from the device.

- X Do not use alcohol wipes.
- X Do not use alcohol sprays.
- X Do not use alcohol-based disinfectants.
- X Do not use alcohol hand sanitisers near the device.

Technical Support

For further information, replacement consumables or technical assistance, please contact:

Intermedical (UK) Ltd

Email: smokingcessation@intermedical.co.uk

Telephone: +44 (0)1732 522444

Information from Previous Communications

ACTION REQUIRED: Prescribing Data Audit

The Community Pharmacy Team has completed its quarterly audit of prescribing data for all Pharmacist Independent Prescribers working in community pharmacy. Following this review, letters have been sent to some prescribers requesting clarification on the rationale for prescribing certain medications. This may relate to non-formulary prescribing, controlled drug prescribing, high-cost items, or other prescribing considerations. Prescribers who have received a letter via their personal nhs.scot account are asked to submit their response within 4 weeks. The response deadline is 5th August 2026.

Thank you to those who have already responded promptly. The Community Pharmacy Team will review all responses after the deadline and provide feedback where appropriate.

INFORMATION: Shortages

Shortages are unfortunately a common occurrence and have been for many years. NHS Ayrshire and Arran have a shortages process, which community pharmacy teams should use to attempt to resolve any supply issues before contacting GP pharmacy teams for alternative products.

Further information on shortages is available in the shortages section of the NHS Ayrshire and Arran Community Pharmacy website: [Shortages – NHS Ayrshire & Arran](#)

Please also ensure patients are not sent to hospital for a supply of medications unless this is under the instruction of MSN. This could put added pressure on the acute sites and hospitals who may not have stock to accommodate this.

INFORMATION: Prescribing Improvement Plan – Quarter Two

Bath and Shower emollients – Review and deprescribe the use of bath and shower emollients as discussed within the Scottish Government guidance document:

[Medicines - achieving value and sustainability in prescribing.](#)

Doxazosin – Review the use of Doxazosin MR as the Scottish Government identified the MR form as an item of low clinical value and should not routinely be prescribed in primary care. There is a significant cost difference compared to once daily immediate release doxazosin.

Mesalazine – Brand switch to Zyduco XL due to the recent launch of the West of Scotland Formulary Gastro-intestinal system chapter, reviewing patients with the aim to switch to Zyduco XL would help improve formulary compliance within NHS Ayrshire & Arran.

Lidocaine – Deprescribe Lidocaine 700mg (equivalent to 5% w/w) medicated plasters (Ralvo® and Versatis®) unless indicated for the symptomatic relief of neuropathic pain associated with previous herpes zoster infection (post-herpetic neuralgia, PHN) in adults.

RECENT COMMUNICATIONS SUMMARY

Thursday 9th July – aa.cpteam - Drug Alert Class 2 No 33 - Class 2 Medicines Recall - Action Within 48 Hours – Bristol Laboratories Ltd – Phenoxymethylpenicillin 25mg/5ml Sugar Free Oral Solution Bp

Friday 10th July – ClinicalPCT - Circular PCA2026-(P)-09

Monday 13th July – aa.cpteam – Drug Alert Class 2 No 34 – Beckton Dickson UK Ltd – Chloraprep 2% W/V 70% V/V cutaneous solution 1ml applicator

Tuesday 14th July – ClinicalPCT - Circular PCA2026-(P)-10

Tuesday 21st July – aa.cpteam – Drug Alert Class 4 No 35 – Macarthy's Laboratories Ltd T/A Martindale Pharma – Xaggitin XL prolonged release tablets

Thursday 23rd July – aa.cpteam – Drug Alert Class 4 No 36 – Neuraxpharm Uk Ltd – Tuzulby prolonged release tablets

Wednesday 22nd July – ClinicalPCT – Pharmacy PIN

KEY COMMUNITY PHARMACY CONTACTS

CP Team	Community Pharmacy Administration	aa.cpteam@aapct.scot.nhs.uk	01292 513905/513833
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PRIMARY CARE CONTACTS

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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.