

NHS Ayrshire & Arran Community Pharmacy Update

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

ACTION REQUIRED: Hayfever PGDs

There are four revised PGDs:

- Fexofenadine 120mg Tablets
- Beclometasone 50mcg Nasal Spray
- Mometasone 50mcg Nasal Spray
- Olopatadine 1mg/mL Eye Drops

Pharmacists should note that use of fexofenadine in breastfeeding has been reclassified from an exclusion criterion to a caution within the PGD. This change introduces additional supporting text to guide clinical decision-making:

“Use while breastfeeding: Limited data exists on the content of human milk after administering fexofenadine hydrochloride. It is not expected to carry any adverse effects in the infant but may have the potential to cause a negative effect on lactation. The use of fexofenadine in mothers breast feeding their babies requires that the therapeutic benefits of the drug be weighed against the potential hazards to the mother and baby”.

This means that supply is not contraindicated, but pharmacists must apply clinical judgement, ensuring use is limited to situations where benefit clearly outweighs potential risk.

Pharmacists should also be aware that these national PGDs do not contain an explicit drug interaction section. While inclusion of drug interactions is not a legal requirement within PGD legislation, assessment of clinically relevant interactions remains a fundamental component of the consultation and supply process, and must continue to be undertaken routinely.

Please read and *electronically sign* the new PGDs.

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

ACTION REQUIRED: Independent Prescribing Qualification

The Community Pharmacy Team may have additional funded independent prescribing places available. If this is something you are interested in completing, please email aa.cpteam@aapct.scot.nhs.uk to be added to our waitlist.

INFORMATION: Regional Formulary

Work has now commenced on the new regional formulary, which represents a significant step forward in supporting consistent, high-quality prescribing across the West of Scotland. The formulary is being developed collaboratively across all five Health Boards and will provide condition-based guidance, alongside specific recommendations for adults, children and Pharmacy First services.

The first chapters of the formulary have now been launched, with additional chapters continuing to be developed and released on a rolling basis. This includes recently added content covering areas such as cardiovascular and skin conditions, alongside earlier chapters on gastrointestinal and respiratory care.

We have attached the latest newsletters for further information.

Community Pharmacy Update

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INFORMATION FOR EAST AYRSHIRE PHARMACIES: CHANGE TO L3 MAR/DOSETTE BOX ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The responsibility for assessing a person's need for medication support (blister packs or L3 MAR) in East Ayrshire is moving from the CAPTech Team to council social work staff.

The pilot rollout will commence in the Cumnock and Doon Valley areas, with the estimated start date of July 2026.

What is changing

The assessment of need for medication support will no longer be carried out by the CAPTech Team. This assessment will now be completed by **council social work staff only**, as part of their wider care and support assessment.

How the new process will work

Pharmacy Support Workers will liaise with community pharmacies and update pharmacy turnaround times for completing an L3 MAR or blister pack dispense. This information will be regularly shared with council social work staff and communicated to patients and carers, advising when medication support is expected to begin.

If medication support is required, council social work staff will issue a **Medication Support Request form** (example attached) via email to:

- The community pharmacy, and
- The pharmacy team within the GP practice

Role of the GP practice pharmacy team

On receipt of a Medication Support Request, the **practice-based pharmacy team** will:

- Undertake a Medication Review, as appropriate.
- Rationalise medication and reduce unnecessary prescribing.
- Simplify regimens where possible.
- **Send new prescriptions to community pharmacy within five working days.**

Role of the community pharmacy

Community pharmacies will provide medication support in line with the request and updated prescriptions, for example, blister packs or MAR charts, where capacity has been agreed.

Information from Previous Communications

ACTION REQUIRED: Follow-Up Survey for Pregnancy Test Pilot

The Pregnancy Test Pilot has now been trialled for 6 months. Pharmacies who are delivering the Pregnancy Test Pilot are asked to complete the questionnaire below. It is important we obtain as much feedback as possible in order to develop the service appropriately.

Feedback form can be found by clicking link here and scanning the QR code:

[Pregnancy Test Pilot Evaluation Feedback Form](#)

ACTION REQUIRED: Follow-Up Survey for HRT Prescribing

I hope you have had enough time to watch the short HRT information video and, where appropriate, use the HRT safety cards to support conversations with patients in your pharmacy.

Video can be found by clicking link here: [Unopposed Oestrogen Community Pharmacy Presentation](#)

This message marks the final step of this piece of work. The purpose of the follow-up questionnaire is to help us understand the benefits of the project from a community pharmacy perspective, including refreshing knowledge on the matter of unopposed oestrogen, whether the video and safety card have supported confidence and patient discussions around safe HRT use.

Your feedback is essential. The more responses we receive, the better we can demonstrate the value of community pharmacy involvement and shape any future work in this area. Completing the questionnaire should only take a few minutes, but it will make a real difference in helping us evaluate the impact of the project.

Thank you again for your engagement and for the vital role you play in supporting women to use HRT safely.

Feedback form can be found by clicking link here:

[HRT Safety & Endometrial Protection: Follow-Up Survey – Fill in form](#)

ACTION REQUIRED: Survey Request

Please consider below request from PhD student who is undertaking a survey into community pharmacy workforce in the UK.

Dear colleague, I am undertaking a full-time PhD to explore the public health role of the community pharmacy workforce in the UK. This includes understanding the true educational needs of the community pharmacy workforce, to enable them to confidently and competently deliver public health services.

In the next stage of my research, I am conducting an online anonymous survey and would be delighted if you agreed to participate. Please click on the following link if you are interested.

https://hud.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_a9kl6E5106i2whE

This will take you to the start of the survey. There is a participant information sheet for you to read, and a consent form, all built into the beginning of the survey. If you give your consent to participate, you will be taken to the survey questions. If you have colleagues who may also be willing to participate in the survey, please share a copy of this link with them.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,
Alison Hemsworth

Alison Hemsworth FdSc, MSc, FAPharmT

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PhD team phone (Dr Gray) – 01484-256948

How we can help you?

The Quit Your Way (Specialist Service) can offer you help with smoking cessation.

We offer free training:

- how to best support your patient to successfully stop smoking
- how to use Motivational interviewing
- how to use NRT & Varenicline
- how best to choose product(s) for your patient
- how to use a CO monitor and what the reading means
- how to promote your in-house smoking cessation service

We can offer free Shared Care:

- A patient who is struggling can receive additional support from us
- You will continue to see them and dispense any products
- You will continue to collect their follow-ups

We can provide you with free:

- Sample formulary NRT products
- Smokerlyser (CO monitor) consumables
- Posters promoting smoking cessation

We will continue to attempt to chase up any outstanding follow-ups you can't get hold of.



RECENT COMMUNICATIONS SUMMARY

Monday 18th May

Kirstie Williams - Community Pharmacy Service – Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) for Tuberculosis

Friday 22nd May

Kirstie Williams - Updated NHS Pharmacy First Scotland PGD's

Monday 25th May

Kirstie Williams – Updated Medicines A–Z Look-up List – UC PGD v32

- Private and Confidential

Thursday 28th May

aa.cpteam – Class 2 Drug Alert No 25 2026 - Medicines Recall – Action Quarantine Stock **Within 48 Hours Action Any Required Patient Contact Within 5 Days** – Crescent Pharma Limited – Ramipril 2.5mg Capsules

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.