

# Community Pharmacy Update

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

## **ACTION REQUIRED: New PGDs**

There are two new PGDs:

- Skin Inflammation (Hydrocortisone 1% Cream/Ointment)
- Oral Thrush (Nystatin 100,000u/mL Oral Suspension)

Please read and electronically sign the new PGDs which can be found by clicking the link below. Please also remember to complete the relevant NES Turas Learn.

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

## **ACTION REQUIRED: CP4 Paper Forms**

Please do not send CP4 paper forms to NSS. All pharmacy led service claims (CP4) must be sent electronically via your PMR system.

Only CP3 form (MCR registration) should be sent for scanning.

If CP4 forms are not required for your internal procedures, printing can be deactivated through the relevant menu options within your PMR system. This functionality is typically located within the section that displays all Universal Claims Framework (UCF) services, where printing can be disabled at the individual UCF clinical service level.

Where a CP4 form is necessary to support the transfer of medication information to a patient's GP practice, the form will continue to print regardless of the disabled setting. These mandatory forms are identifiable by the printed wording "Send to GP" in the lower-left corner.

Please continue to send CP4 forms which state "Send to GP" to the relevant GP practice as it is crucial that GP practices are aware of prescribing for their registered patients.

## **ACTION REQUIRED: Apremilast (Otezla)**

Apremilast (Otezla) came off patent in January 2026, resulting in a significant reduction in the cost of generic products.

To ensure cost efficiencies, strengthen medicines governance, and improve oversight of patient care, NHS Ayrshire & Arran (NHS AA) will repatriate prescribing from GP practices and dispensing from community pharmacies to secondary care.

Key Points for Community Pharmacy Teams:

- Please continue to dispense existing Apremilast prescriptions where these are presented by patients
- Ensure careful management of any remaining stock, noting this remains a high-cost medicine.
- Patients who are repatriated to the new pathway will receive their medication via home delivery. Secondary care pharmacy teams will support this transition and provide further information to patients as required.

Thank you for your cooperation and support during this transition.

# NHS Ayrshire & Arran

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### **ACTION REQUIRED: C Card Supply & STI Testing Kits**

Please check you have adequate stock of C Card supplies & STI testing kits and ensure these are in date. We encourage pharmacists to offer both of these services opportunistically during EHC or bridging contraception consultations.

Information on how to order more can be found by clicking the link below and information found under 'Condom Supply' or 'Chlamydia & Gonorrhoea Testing & Chlamydia Treatment'.

[Pharmacy Services – NHS Ayrshire & Arran](#)

### **INFORMATION: Pregnancy Test Pilot**

This service is for young people between the ages of 13-18 years old who can obtain a free pregnancy test from one of these pharmacies. Please click the link below to find the pharmacies taking part in the Pregnancy Test Pilot in Ayrshire & Arran which will run until May 2026. If you are not participating in this pilot but identify an appropriate patient suitable for this service, please refer on to one of the participating pharmacies.

[Pregnancy Test Pilot Pharmacies](#)

### **INFORMATION: Change to Asthma Guidelines to MART Regime**

Changes to treatment of chronic asthma now no longer recommends a short-acting bronchodilator agonist (SABA) such as a salbutamol to be prescribed as first-line treatment.

The MHRA issued a warning of the risk of severe asthma attacks and increased mortality associated with overuse of SABA inhalers, both when prescribed with and without steroid inhalers and therefore this has prompted a change to SABA prescribing guidelines.

The updated NICE guidelines can be found by clicking the link below.

[NICE Asthma: diagnosis, monitoring and chronic asthma management](#)

### **INFORMATION: ePharmacy Customer Helpdesk Change to Opening Hours**

Please note that from **1 April 2026**, the ePharmacy Customer Helpdesk opening hours will change following the introduction of the reduced working week.

#### **New opening hours:**

- **Monday to Thursday:** 08:30 – 16:30
- **Friday:** 08:30 – 15:00

### **INFORMATION: April Bank Holiday Weekend**

A reminder that GP practices are closed on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2026 and Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

Please see Ayrshire & Arran's community pharmacy opening hours, which can be found in the attachment within this email.

# Information from Previous Communications

## INFORMATION: West of Scotland Formulary – Changes to Inhaler Products

Due to the West of Scotland formulary review, there will be changes to inhaler products being recommended locally.

The most noticeable change will be a move from Fostair MDI to Proxor MDI (identical ingredients and inhaler technique).

The primary care pharmacy team will be working on this switch in the coming months, starting in April once the new formulary is published. Updated local guidelines for asthma will be shared in due course.

Primary care teams will liaise with their local Community Pharmacies to understand the Fostair stock levels before switching any patients.

## RECENT COMMUNICATIONS SUMMARY

### Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March

**aa.cpteam** - Class 2 Drug Alert No 15 2026 - Medicines Recall – Action Within 48 Hours – Regent Medical Ltd/Mölnlycke Health Care – Hibiwash 500ml

### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>

**ClinicalPCT** - URGENT UPDATE - SAFEGUARDING ISSUE Confidential, Urgent and Important - NHS PFS Supply

### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March

**aa.cpteam** – Drug Alert Class 4 No 16 2026 – Quadrant Pharmaceuticals Vesomni 6mg/0.4mg M/R tablets

### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March

**Clinical PCT** – PCA2026-(P)-05 – Addition of a common clinical condition (oral candidiasis)

### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March

**aa.cpteam** - Drug Alert Class 4 No 17 2026 – Sandoz Apixaban 2.5mg and 5mg tablets

### Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

**Clinical PCT** – SGHD/CMO (2026) 04 05 – Seasonal Influenza and Spring Covid-19 Vaccination programme

### Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March

**aa.cpteam** – Drug Alert Class 2 No 18 2026 – Bio Products Laboratory Ltd Human Rabies Immunoglobulin

### Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March

**aa.cpteam** - Class 2 Drug Alert No 18 2026 - Medicines Recall – Action Within 48 Hours – Bio Products Laboratory Limited – Human Normal Immunoglobulin 500iu Solution For Injection

## 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
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## PRIMARY CARE CONTACTS

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**GENERAL ENQUIRIES EMAIL: [aa.cpteam@aapct.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:aa.cpteam@aapct.scot.nhs.uk)**

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