Friday 30th October 2026

NHS Ayrshire & Arran

Community Pharmacy Update

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

Mouth Cancer Action Month

November 1st – 30th is **Mouth Cancer Action Month**, we should encourage everyone to check their mouth and report any unusual or persistent changes to their GP or dentist. Everyone should be aware of the signs and symptoms of mouth cancer as early detection can make a significant difference to treatment outcomes and survival rates.

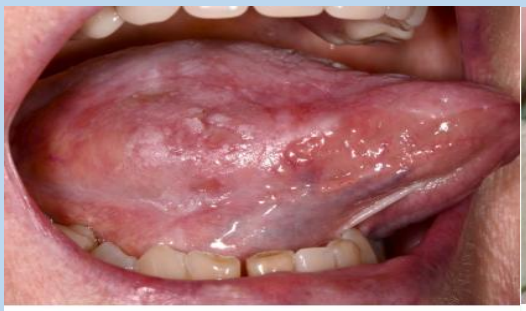
What is mouth cancer?

Mouth cancer (also called oral cancer) can affect any part of the mouth, including the gums, tongue, inside the cheeks or the lips. Although anyone can get mouth cancer, the risk increases with age and most people are diagnosed between the ages of 66 and 70. How serious it depends on the type of mouth cancer, how big it is, if it has spread and the patient's general health.

Symptoms of mouth cancer

- A mouth ulcer that lasts longer than 3 weeks
- A red or white patch inside your mouth
- A lump inside your mouth or on your lip
- Pain inside your mouth
- Difficulty swallowing
- Difficulty speaking or a hoarse voice
- A lump in your neck or throat
- Unintentional weight loss

These symptoms are common and can be caused by other conditions and any symptoms should be checked promptly by a GP or dentist.



White patches on the tongue or inside your mouth may be early symptoms of mouth cancer.



Early stage mouth cancer can look like a mouth ulcer.

Although it is not always clear what causes mouth cancer, there is more chance of getting mouth cancer by:

- Smoking or chewing tobacco, betel nut or paan
- Drinking lots of alcohol
- Having leukoplakia (white patch/es in the mouth)
- Overexposure to sunlight or sunbeds – this can cause skin cancer affecting the lips
- Having had cancer before
- Having a weakened immune system or taking immunosuppressant medications.

Current Communications

ACTION REQUIRED: L3 MAR Charts

This is a reminder to all pharmacies to ensure the 'comments' form is printed on the reverse of all MAR charts. It is important that this form is included, as it allows carers to document variable doses of medication, such as paracetamol and warfarin.

A copy of a suitable form is attached to this email for pharmacies to save and print as required.

Update to SEPA Requirements for CD Waste

There has been an update to the SEPA requirements for CD waste, please see section 19 in the attached document. These take effect from November 2026.

The only change is '**Not stored for longer than 6 months'.**

This means CDs that have expired or are unfit for use must be destroyed in a timely manner. This included any patients own CDs returned to pharmacy for disposal. Please get in touch with any queries, details below for CD Inspection officer.

ACTNow Campaign

Please see details attached of Pharmacist Support ACTNow Campaign which runs Monday 2nd November to Sunday 15th November.

Information from Previous Communications

Update to Scottish Palliative Care Guidelines

There has been a significant number of guideline updates to the Scottish Palliative Care Guidelines. A newsletter has been developed by Healthcare Improvement Scotland advising of key highlights, please find this as an attachment to the Community Pharmacy Update.

Discontinuation of Levemir

Levemir is being discontinued with stock expected to be depleted by December 2026. Whilst both Secondary Care and Primary Care are actively switching patients to an appropriate alternative, some patients may not attend reviews and therefore may not be aware of this being discontinued. If a patient is unaware and still receiving Levemir prescriptions, please advise them to contact their Diabetes Team to be reviewed. Please see attached National Patient Safety Alert.

Newly Qualified Independent Prescribers

Once the GPhC register has been updated you can apply for IP pads by emailing:
aa.cpteam@aapct.scot.nhs.uk
Do not use the QR code, this is for repeat order IP pads only.
Please note that the process from obtaining an IP code and then receiving printed Rx pads can take up to 12 weeks dependant on order cut off dates at PSD.

Information from Previous Communications

Antimicrobial Management Group Update

NHS Ayrshire & Arran's Antimicrobial Management Group (AMG) works across primary and secondary care to promote antimicrobial stewardship, optimise prescribing, and help tackle antimicrobial resistance. The AMG has recently welcomed new members from community pharmacy, nursing and dentistry to strengthen representation across all areas of patient care.

We are delighted to welcome Kirsty Hamilton as the AMG's new community pharmacy representative. Kirsty is a pharmacist independent prescriber at Tarbolton Pharmacy and is involved in the education and development of pharmacist prescribers through Teach and Treat, the University of Strathclyde Independent Prescribing programme, and the PSD (formerly NES) National Clinical Skills for Pharmacists Programme.

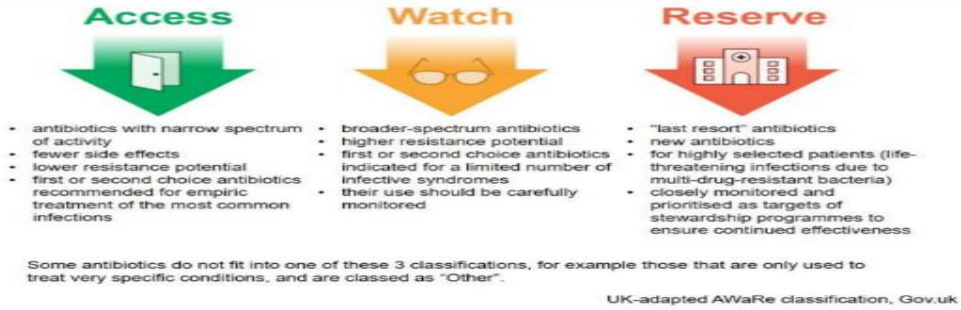
Kirsty aims to strengthen communication between the AMG and community pharmacy, helping to ensure pharmacists and IPs remain up to date with local antimicrobial stewardship priorities, prescribing guidance and best practice. Please feel free to contact Kirsty with any queries by emailing: kirsty.hamilton13@nhs.scot

National Antimicrobial Prescribing Indicators & Targets

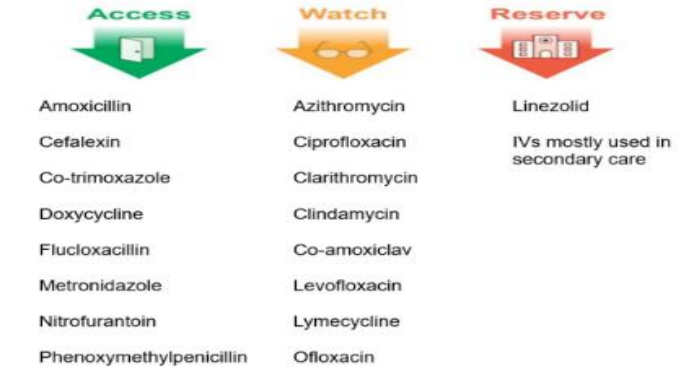
In 2019 the UK published its 20-year vision for antimicrobial resistance (AMR). This set the ambitious goal of ensuring AMR will be controlled and contained by 2040. To deliver on this vision, the government committed to producing a series of 5-year national action plans. The second national action plan (NAP), 'Confronting antimicrobial resistance 2024 to 2029', aims to:

- Reduce total human antibiotic consumption by 5% (from 2019 baseline)
- To ensure that 70% of antibiotics used come from the "Access" category

UK Access, Watch, Reserve and Other classification for antibiotics:



The table below shows which category some commonly used antibiotics in primary care belong to. Please note that this does not contain all antibiotics for each category. The full list is available here:



In December 2025, Scottish Government published antibiotic prescribing indicators for primary care, secondary care and dental prescribing to support delivery of the UK NAP targets across Scotland. The supplementary targets for primary care are:

- By 2029, 90% of prescriptions of amoxicillin and 60% for doxycycline in primary care will be for a 5-day course
- By 2029, 85% of prescriptions of trimethoprim and nitrofurantoin for women in primary care will be for 3 days
- By 2029, less than 3% of all antibiotics in primary care will be for co-amoxiclav and ciprofloxacin combined

Alongside the secondary care and dental targets, improving prescribing practice from all prescribing clinicians in primary care against these targets is the focus of the AMG.

RECENT COMMUNICATIONS SUMMARY

Monday 19th October – ClinicalPCT – PCA 2026-(P) 20

Tuesday 20th October – ClinicalPCT – DSI-2026—013(U) and PR435 V2

Tuesday 20th October – ClincialPCT - PR435 V2 - Nova Biomedical - Nova Statstrip® Ketone Test Strips: TEST STRIP 50CT KET STRIP DUAL PACK

Tuesday 27th October – aa.cpteam – Class 2 Drug Alert No 43 2026 – Xeal Pharma – Clopidogrel oral liquids

Thursday 29th October – aa.cpteam - Class 2 Drug Alert No 44 2026 - Medicines Recall – Action Within 48 Hours – Advanz Pharma Limited – Mynzepli 40mg/Ml Solution For Injection In Pre-Filled Syringe

Thursday 29th October – aa.cpteam - Class 2 Drug Alert No 45 2026 - Medicines Recall – Action Within 48 Hours – Accord-Uk Limited – Lercanidipine Hydrochloride 10mg Film-Coated Tablets

KEY COMMUNITY PHARMACY CONTACTS

CP Team	Community Pharmacy Administration and general enquiries	aa.cpteam@aapct.scot.nhs.uk	01292 513905/513833
Kirstie Williams	Principal Pharmacist, Community Pharmacy, Public Health & SA HSCP	Kirstie.williams@aapct.scot.nhs.uk	07970 439225
Alyson Stein	Senior Pharmacist, Primary Care & Community Pharmacy	alyson.stein@aapct.scot.nhs.uk	
Shannon Ormsby	Senior Pharmacist, Primary Care & Community Pharmacy	Shannon.ormsby2@aapct.scot.nhs.uk	07385 391392
Alan McGeer	Senior Pharmacist, Primary Care & Community Pharmacy	Alan.mcgeer@aapct.scot.nhs.uk	07827 840326
Lorraine Tait	Pharmacy Technician Primary Care and Community Pharmacy	Lorraine.tait@aapct.scot.nhs.uk	
Laura Mercer-Stewart	Pharmacy Technician Primary Care and Community Pharmacy	Laura.mercer-stewart@aapct.scot.nhs.uk	
Fiona Knight	Palliative Care Pharmacist – Ayrshire Hospice	Fiona.knight@ayrshirehospice.org	01292 269200 Ext. 495
Sharleen Bell	Controlled Drug Inspection Officer	Sharleen.bell@aapct.scot.nhs.uk	01292 513822
Alex Adam	Specialist Pharmacist in Substance Misuse	Alexander.adam@aacpt.scot.nhs.uk	07557 083093
ePharmacy Facilitator	Facilitator, Digital Services	aa.digitalservicescommunityfacilitators@aapct.scot.nhs.uk	

PRIMARY CARE CONTACTS

Primary Care Pharmacy Contracts Team	Primary Care Contracts general enquiries	ClinicalPCT@aapct.scot.nhs.uk	
Anne Shaw Carolyn Dickson	Primary Care Manager, Pharmacy and Optometry	Anne.shaw2@aapct.scot.nhs.uk	07805 248789
Carolyn Dickson	Assistant Primary Care Manager	Carolyn.Dickson@aapct.scot.nhs.uk	07557114209

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.