



Community Pharmacy Communication Update


Tuesday 22nd July 2025

New Items in this edition –


- Patient Information Leaflet – Keppra® to Generic Levetiracetam Switch
- PCA (P)(2025) 18 - Pharmaceutical Services: Amendments in Respect Of Community Pharmacy Remuneration Arrangements From 1 April 2025
- Travel Health Websites Letter 09.07.25

ACTION	Patient Information Leaflet – Keppra® to Generic Levetiracetam Switch
	<p>A patient information leaflet is now available to support the switch from Keppra® (levetiracetam) to generic levetiracetam in line with national guidance and NHSGGC cost efficiency work.</p> <p>While there is no requirement to routinely provide the leaflet, you may find it helpful when speaking with patients who have concerns or queries about receiving a different version of their epilepsy medicine. The leaflet explains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MHRA's classification of levetiracetam as a Category 3 antiepileptic (low risk when switching versions). • Reasons why a different version may be dispensed (e.g. cost efficiency, supply). • What patients should expect regarding appearance, ingredients, and potential side effects. <p>The leaflet is available here: Switching from Keppra® to generic Levetiracetam - NHSGGC</p> <p>Please use your professional judgement to decide when it would be helpful to share this information with patients.</p> <p>If you have any questions, please contact the prescribing support team at ggc.prescribing2@nhs.scot</p> <p>Kathryn Chisholm 21/07/2025</p>

ACTION	PCA (P)(2025) 18 - Pharmaceutical Services: Amendments in Respect of Community Pharmacy Remuneration Arrangements From 1 April 2025
	<p>Please find link below for NHS Circular PCA(P)(2025) 18 - Pharmaceutical Services: Amendments In Respect Of Community Pharmacy Remuneration Arrangements From 1 April 2025</p> <p>www.publications.scot.nhs.uk/files/pca2025-p-18.pdf</p> <p>22/07/2025</p>

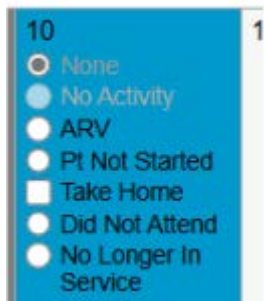
ACTION	Travel Health Websites Letter 09.07.25
 <p>Travel Health Website.pdf Attached</p>	<p>Please see attached information relating to immediate action regarding TRAVAX and Fit for Health websites. This is will be of importance for any community pharmacy who provides any travel advice or private travel service.</p> <p>These two websites will no longer be maintained and healthcare professionals are advised to access NaTHNaC website Travel Health Pro https://nathnac.net/ with immediate effect.</p> <p>Apologies for cross posting if you have been contacted directly on this matter.</p> <p>Elaine Paton 22/07/25</p>

Items from previous editions –

IMPORTANT INFORMATION	Research Assistance
 <p>Information Leaflet.docx Attached</p>	<p>I am looking to recruit pharmacists from all sectors to gain their thoughts on the barriers and enablers on credentialing as an RPS Core Advanced pharmacist through one to one online interviews that will last approximately 40 minutes.</p> <p>It is hoped that captured views will inform recommendations on if and how to increase RPS core advanced curriculum credentialling rates within Scotland.</p> <p>All information gathered will remain confidential and will be anonymised for publication.</p>

	<p>Please read the attached information leaflet and if you would like to participate or have any questions then please contact Gareth at g.mcconnell@rgu.ac.uk or gareth.mcconnell@nhs.scot</p> <p>Gareth McConnell (GPCP Advanced II) Senior Pharmacist (Primary Care) 18/07/2025</p>
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IMPORTANT INFORMATION	Prednisolone 5mg Tablets
	<p>In line with NHSGGC policy, all prescribers in NHSGGC are being asked to prescribe standard tablets rather than soluble tablets, due the significant cost differences.</p> <p>Prednisolone 5mg soluble tablets are almost 50 times more expensive than standard 5mg tablets.</p> <p>All patients, including children (with the exception of those patients using NJ tubes) should be prescribed standard prednisolone tablets.</p> <p>Studies show that all standard prednisolone tabs will disperse in water; some brands will disperse almost immediately, and others may take two to five minutes.</p> <p>Please reassure patients/parents that the use of standard tablets is appropriate.</p> <p>Carol Smart 15/07/2025</p>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION	NEO ARV/HIV Module
	<p>To help manage cases where patients don't begin their treatment on the scheduled start date, we've added a new calendar status in the NEO ARV module: "Pt Not Started".</p>  <p>Please select this status if the patient has not yet started their treatment. This supports our "no payment until the calendar is completed" policy and helps us maintain accurate records.</p>

Thank you for your attention to this update and for your continued support.

Michelle Cooper
15/07/2025

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Updated Early Warning Systems

Please find attached an updated report which contains the Early Warning Systems (EWS) for each of the Board's HSCP's. A copy of this report can also be found on the Community Pharmacy Website: [NHS Community Pharmacy Website \(scot.nhs.uk\)](https://scot.nhs.uk)

Please identify your pharmacy and print off the relevant cascade.



I would like to reiterate the importance of all pharmacy staff, including Locums, knowing and understanding the cascade process and what they will need to do in response to a message. It may therefore be helpful to site this document close to your main telephone.

As a reminder, this cascade system can be started by either a Board Officer or any Community Pharmacist. Anyone initiating the system should telephone the 'Master Station' clearly relaying the message that is required for circulation. The 'Master Station' will start the cascade of calls by telephoning the next pharmacy on the list, who will in turn, telephone the next pharmacy and so forth until the last pharmacy calls the 'Master Station'. When the 'Master Station' receives the call from the last pharmacy in the cascade, it should contact the person who initiated the cascade thus completing the cycle.

It is essential that pharmacies follow this cascade in the specified order to ensure that all pharmacies receive the message and that the communication is successfully exchanged throughout each HSCP System. Closed pharmacies should be by-passed; however, it would be helpful to telephone them with the message once they re-open. In these instances, please advise us that you have already passed on the message to the pharmacy they were expected to contact, which will stop unnecessary calls.

If there is anything in this cascade process which is unclear or you would like to discuss further, please telephone Michelle Cooper on 0141-201-6041.

Michelle Cooper
15/07/2025

IMPORTANT INFORMATION	Narcotics Anonymous
 1961 UKP DL 8pp Survey 2024.pdf  June 2025 WTF Doc.pdf Attached	<p>Please find attached the information pertaining to Narcotics Anonymous meetings.</p> <p>The details provided are dated for June; however, it has been confirmed that the days and times are recurring, therefore this information remains accurate going forward.</p> <p>Mary Clare Madden 08/07/205</p>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION	PCA (P)(2025) 17 - Extension to Serious Shortage Protocols for Estradot® (Estradiol) Patches
	<p>Please find link below for NHS Circular PCA(P)(2025) 17 - Extension to Serious Shortage Protocols for Estradot® (Estradiol) Patches</p> <p>www.publications.scot.nhs.uk/files/pca2025-p-17.pdf</p> <p>08/07/2025</p>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION	Let's Chat Vac - RSV
	<p>The Vaccination Communication Planning Group would appreciate your support in promotion of the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccination campaign. The RSV vaccination programme is being offered to eligible older adults across health boards from June - September. The vaccine is also offered to pregnant women from 28 weeks of pregnancy, all year round.</p> <p>The vaccine is being offered to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • people turning 75 years old on and between 1 August 2025 and 31 July 2026* • pregnant women (from 28 weeks of pregnancy). <p>* Those aged 76-79 who have previously not received the RSV vaccine may still be eligible for vaccination. Individuals should contact their local NHS immunisation team for more information.</p> <p><u>What can you do to support?</u></p> <p>Using the enclosed toolkit to promote as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use hashtag #RSVvaccineScot in any communication cascades/display • Display Social Media Captions on twitter Campaign assets Public Health Scotland News

- Display Video Assets on twitter, digital screens, websites/pages, [Social Media Assets](#)
- Display static assets on digital billboards, facebook or any of social media platforms.

Sharing Patient Information, which is available in a range of formats [accessible here](#).

**On behalf of the
NHSGGC Vaccination Communication Planning Group**

08/07/2025

IMPORTANT INFORMATION	Medicines Update for Dissemination
	<p>GGC Medicines Update is a series of blogs with important medicines related messages relevant to all healthcare professionals across GGC.</p> <p>Please see below for relevant updates.</p> <p>Updated blogs Click on the following links to access the recently updated Medicines Update blogs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulary Update - Emollients • Drug Safety Update – Laxatives and the use of starch-based thickeners <p>Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guideline News May 2025 • Formulary Update May/June 2025 • MHRA Safety Roundup June 2025 <p>08/07/2025</p>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION	QYW Training – Tuesday 19th August 2025
	<p>In order for a Community Pharmacy to become an accredited Quit Your Way Pharmacy it is mandatory for a one day training programme to be completed by pharmacists, locums and support staff.</p> <p>The training will include key elements from the NES Smoking Cessation training pack, together with brief intervention techniques and NRT products. This session is open to all pharmacy staff.</p>

We presently have some places available for the event on Tuesday 19th August 2025. Places will be allocated on a first-come basis and will be confirmed in writing.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Venue</u>
Tuesday 19th August 2025	9:00 – 16:00	Beresford Suite Levensdale Hospital 510 Crookston Road Glasgow G53 7TU

Please contact us ASAP by phone on 0141 201 4945, or by e-mail ggc.pharmacyhit@nhs.scot

Parking is available on a first come basis.

Lunch will be provided. Please inform us if you do not require lunch or you have special dietary requirements.

Annette Robb
20/05/2025

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



FAST Training
Session.pdf

Attached

FAST Education Offer

Please see attached offer of training run by Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland on the FAST tool for identifying a stroke.

The dates and information are noted below and a poster is attached which can be displayed in staff areas.

This training is funded by the Scottish Government, and it is strongly recommended that clinical and non-clinical staff working with patients in **Emergency Departments, Primary Care (including community pharmacies), and the Scottish Ambulance Service** attend one of the sessions.

Each session will be no longer than 30 minutes, and will include a short presentation and time for discussion / questions via Microsoft Teams. This training is for **patient-facing** clinical and non-clinical staff working in **only Emergency Departments, Primary Care, and the Scottish Ambulance Service** (i.e. reception staff included), throughout Scotland.

A CPD certificate will be available for staff upon completion. Dates and times are as follows:

FAST Education Dates
Wednesday 6th August 19:00
Monday 25th August 13:00

Please can all attendees sign up via the following Microsoft Forms link. A Microsoft Teams invite will be sent out for the session nearer the date.

SIGN UP:

<https://forms.office.com/e/YiFrAbRwtv>

Please share this information with your clinical teams and encourage them to sign up. Please get in contact with me if you have any further questions.

Esther Pullen

esther.pullen@chss.org.uk

09/05/2025

[INDEX - Community Pharmacy Communications Updates](#)

Any queries should be directed to the contact provided – where no specific contact is shown, queries should be directed to ggc.cpdevteam@nhs.scot

We are keen for any feedback you have about this Update. Please submit your comments/suggestions to: ggc.newpharmacy.applications@nhs.scot