

Date: 19 September, 2024  
Our Ref: PCS/TravelHealthService  
Extension:  
Email:  
Enquiries to: [gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot)

## **NHS Travel Health Vaccination Service**

Dear Community Pharmacy Contractors,

It is with regret, we are writing to you to inform you that the NHS Grampian Travel Health Service that is currently being offered at community pharmacies will terminate and this letter provides you with information about the immediate changes to the service, and to inform you of the 3 months' notice period starting from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024, as per the SLA.

In the first 5 months of this financial year NHS Grampian's travel health service has already spent nearly two thirds of its budget with a further 2 weeks of delivered activity yet to be invoiced. This is an increase of approximately 70% compared to the same period last year. Financial risks of significant overspend are high and will require immediate mitigations for this year.

Until 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023, the fee for the assessment was £10 per patient increasing to £25 per patient to bring NHSG in line with fees in other boards and up to 3 vaccinations (£8.75 each administration fee). The assessment fee is chargeable whether the individual requires any further NHS vaccination, private vaccination or other private service.

Other health boards utilising external providers, including community pharmacy, are having similar problems with budget control because of the fee increase for assessment and the demand for NHS services now they are more accessible. Some have already brought their services in house because of these increasing costs.

With immediate effect, sites who offer this service must restrict appointments and reduce the level of activity. The fairest way of doing this is to distribute appointments throughout the contributing pharmacies. Therefore, each pharmacy will be remunerated for a **maximum of 4 consultations and 8 vaccinations per month**, which will give NHS Grampian coverage across the Board with 112 consultations and 224 vaccinations per month. This measure will restrict spending and ensure that the budget for travel vaccination is not exceeded in year.

We realise that the restriction on remuneration may well mean that operating the service becomes unsustainable for individual pharmacies; therefore if a contractor wishes to terminate their service under this SLA immediately we ask that you contact us for discussion within the next 2 weeks (before Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024) to discuss. We would simply ask that you send communication to [gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot) to arrange.

We want to thank you for all the hard work that has contributed to this vaccination service being successful, and hope that community pharmacies will be able to provide vaccination services in the future.

Clearly, we would anticipate that for some pharmacies operating the service there will be a desire to continue a private offer.

Please contact [gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot) with any concerns or questions you have about this.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura Karim', with a stylized, cursive script.

Laura Karim  
**Pharmaceutical Services Development & Improvement Manager**  
**NHS Grampian**