

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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Laura Karim, Pharmaceutical Services Improvement and Development Manager

We wish to introduce you to Laura Karim, our new Pharmaceutical Services Improvement and Development Manager for NHS Grampian who started her new role this week, and we're sure you will join us to welcome Laura! Laura's days of work are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and she is looking forward to meeting you all in the coming months as she settles into her new role.



Xtandi® (Enzalutamide)

For a number of years NHS Grampian has contracted community pharmacy to supply enzalutamide via the brand Xtandi on HBP prescription with supplies ordered directly via Alliance. This arrangement has allowed NHS Grampian to provide prostate cancer treatment close to patients' homes whilst still benefitting from the significant primary care rebate that was part of the agreement to make enzalutamide available on the NHS. It is only because of the reduced price achieved through the rebate that the Scottish Medicines Consortium approved the treatment is cost effective for the NHS in Scotland.

Regrettably, a number of contractors have been failing to utilise the contracted supply route via Alliance. That has led to a significant financial risk for NHS Grampian as the manufacturer is challenging the rebate we believed should have been due. This means that the net purchased cost for NHS Grampian has risen significantly.

Recognising this practice, the contractors committee has given notice on the SLA and NHS Grampian has begun to move to an alternative model of supply that protects the rebate for the NHS.

Over the coming weeks and months NHS Grampian will inform patients that their supplies will be moving to the collection hubs in the same way we have done with abiraterone. Patients will be transitioned as their scripts become due or where the supply is required post notice period for contractors exiting the local SLA.

In the interim contractors are reminded:

- Contractors must purchase from the supply route directed by the Board to ensure the NHS receives rebates as agreed with pharmaceutical companies.
- Contractors must purchase Xtandi® as a UK market product (Not a Parallel import), at list price, from the Astellas formal UK supply route in line with the following process:
- Supplies to be ordered directly through Astellas only.
- If problems in accessing the medicine via this supply route cannot be resolved through direct dialogue with the manufacturer, contact the Health Board. **Do not** purchase from any other supply route without the approval of the Health Board.

Any contractor that cannot comply with the arrangements above is requested to make contact via gram.tieredservicesupply@nhs.scot who will advise on next steps.

Any claims for fees and reimbursement under the SLA will require evidence of meeting the requirements above / will be subject to payment verification processes.

Creon® and Other Pancreatin Product Shortages

We are aware that there are ongoing challenges with the availability of Creon® and other pancreatin products. NHS Grampian are continuing to work to produce robust guidance to support with these supply issues, however at present we await further information before disseminating guidance.

In the interim, to ensure management of pancreatin stocks with the network, community pharmacies are asked to consider the following:

- Making part-supplies to patients to ensure an ability to supply medication to all who require e.g. ensure patients have a maximum of one-months supply including personal stocks.
- Continue to order stocks required however refrain from stock piling.
- Where no stock can be procured, work with other pharmacies within the local network to support supplies to patients.

Primary Care Prescribing Efficiencies – GP Practice Agreement Rivaroxaban to Apixaban

Apixaban is now the first line, and most cost effective, DOAC of choice for NVAf and prevention of DVT/PE in NHS Grampian. There is a considerable amount of rivaroxaban prescribing, which represents a significant cost efficiency opportunity.

NHS Grampian Primary Care Prescribing Finance Group have agreed a switch from rivaroxaban to apixaban. This is being facilitated as a local GP agreement to undertake patient reviews and change treatments.

It is hoped that this initiative can be undertaken prior to the end of July 2024 to maximise in-year savings.

Information has been shared with practices in relation to this switch, including guidance and patient resources. Practices should liaise with local community pharmacies when they are preparing to undertake these reviews/switches to consider stock holding and support of patients.

If you wish any further information or wish to discuss this or any other cost efficiencies please contact gram.medicinesmanagement@nhs.scot.

Controlled Drugs Team Update

Annual Incident Review

The controlled drugs team record all reported incidents involving controlled drugs. The details are reviewed by thematic analysis to identify areas of good practice and to provide opportunities for shared learning. During March 2023 to April 2024, 140 incidents were reported by community pharmacies in Grampian (an increase of 24% from the previous twelve months).

68 community pharmacies in Grampian reported a controlled drug incident to the CD Team. Incidents reported by individual community pharmacies ranged from one incident to seven.

The three most commonly reported events were:

- Dispensing errors (54)
- Handout errors (18)
- Misbalances (16)

Of the dispensing errors, the three most commonly reported drugs were morphine, methadone and methylphenidate.

Community pharmacists are responsible for their own data control and it is imperative for information governance that both patients are advised of the error when prescribed medication is inadvertently given to the wrong patient. If the prescription bag also contains the prescription re-order slip, the patient must be informed of the extent of the data breach.

Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) Survey – Digital Systems Access in Community Pharmacy

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) are currently campaigning and lobbying for read/write access to digital patient records for community pharmacy within Scotland. To support our work in this area, please [click here](#) to complete the short survey. The responses will help raise awareness of the current picture with regards to digital access, and vocalise the potential that growing this access may offer.

RPS want to hear from pharmacists about your current experience of accessing digital records in your practice and help us to understand what you need to make this work for you. We want to better understand the barriers to accessing records and find out more about where it works well and what the benefits are for you and your patients.

It should take 5-10 minutes to complete and closes on Wednesday 12th June at 8pm. This survey is open to members, and non-members of the RPS.

Community Pharmacy Website Update

Our [Community Pharmacy Grampian](#) website has now been updated to another provider giving the site a brand new modern look which is more user friendly. Please bear with us as we migrate to the new provider over the next few weeks and update our content and media links. We hope that the website migration will resolve many of the issues previously highlighted to us. If you have any suggestions of website amendments or helpful additions please contact us.

Grampian Dental Website

Please [click here](#) to view the new Grampian Dental website which is the new 'one stop shop' for information regarding which dental practices are registering NHS patients, oral health improvement guidance, translated guidance re dental services/oral health improvement messages, useful resources/websites, and a dedicated section for education, care givers, workplaces, and dental care professionals.

Stage 2 of the project aims to enhance the professionals' section with the hope of migrating professional information such as referral pathways etc. in due course.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact gwen.robertson@nhs.scot.

Smoking Cessation

Smoking submissions – Important!

We have received some queries regarding the smoking submissions article listed within our previous update and we wish to clarify **every patient who is signed up to the programme should have 4-week data entered onto PCR even if they drop out (try to contact them 3 times) or have an unsuccessful quit.**

Those who are successful at 4 weeks should have data entered at 12 weeks, again, even if they drop out or are unsuccessful. If they are not successful or have been lost to follow up, the case should be closed **after** your 4 week claim. If the patient wants to restart the programme, you can now open a new PCR case immediately, even if you haven't closed off the existing 4 week entry yet. You are paid for the work you do, not whether the patient is successful or not.

If you miss a submission, we can help you claim back the money and amend the National Database for accuracy. We will need:

- **Patient CHI**
- **Patient Initials**
- **Which submission you are claiming for (4 and/or 12 week)**
- **Whether the patient was successful or not or lost to follow up**

We are unable to amend your PCR and therefore the quarterly data for your pharmacy will still mark them as "missed submissions". Please remember we are only here for the odd mistake and are NOT part of the system for claiming. If you are a pharmacy with high missed submissions, please check your housekeeping and create a more robust system, enlisting more than one person who can check the PCR reports function at least once a week.

We appreciate your help in improving Grampian's smoking data to be more accurate in future.

Carbon Monoxide Monitors

CO monitors have not been reintroduced as part of the Smoking Cessation Pharmacy Programme since COVID times. They are £200 each (before sundries) and all 130 pharmacies would likely require a new machine as they're over 5 years old. This would require justification for the high cost.

We are currently auditing to see if there is higher success rates using CO monitors (which we don't believe there is according to recent quantitative data) and if anything changes, we'll update you all. From a qualitative feedback point of view, we'd be keen to hear from anyone who has any strong views on CO monitoring being used as a tool in smoking cessation.

Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up

Consultation on the Quality Assurance of Pharmacy Education and Training

The General Pharmaceutical Council is seeking views on changing its approach to the quality assurance of pharmacy education and training.

[Read More](#)



Lyme Disease Resources for Pharmacy Teams

Our colleagues at LDUK have put together some resources for pharmacy teams to help them recognise symptoms of Lyme Disease and signpost patients to their GP Practice. Please visit the LDUK website.

[Read More](#)

The Happy Place ☺

Grampian Wellbeing Festival – May 2024

Please be reminded there are still a few events going over Grampian as part of the wellbeing Festival which finishes at the end of this week! See the programmes here: [Grampian Wellbeing Festival \(nhsgrampian.org\)](https://nhsgrampian.org)

It would be great if your pharmacy could promote anything within your geographical area!



We would like to continue this section as an opportunity for reward, recognition and good news stories of the teams who read this! Please submit any items for inclusion to:

gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot

All weekly updates are uploaded to the [CP Grampian website](#).

Remember to like our Facebook page for regular updates: [Community Pharmacy Grampian – NHSG](#)