

# Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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## Creon – Stock Management Update

While we know unlicensed stocks of Creon are now available, the attached document aims to rationalise the ordering of Creon and ensure that it is only ordered when there is an imminent need for medication and it has been confirmed no licensed stocks can be procured.

The PERT EWG are continuing to work behind the scenes to support with the management of patients prescribed PERT & further information will be disseminated in due course.

## Pharmacy First: Frequently Asked Questions

Following on from our communications to community pharmacies around the inappropriate use of Pharmacy First, we have issued an update to GP practices around Pharmacy First. When having conversations with your local teams, please refer to this guidance document that was updated in April 2024, used for signposting from GP practices:

<https://www.publications.scot.nhs.uk/files/nhs-pharmacy-first-scotland-202404.pdf>

## FAQ's:

- 1. If a patient comes in and asks for something on Pharmacy First for dry skin, should I refuse to supply this because they asked for Pharmacy First?**  
*No, you shouldn't refuse to supply this. The pharmacy should be using their professional judgement in these scenarios. If a patient asks for something on Pharmacy First - the person who is speaking with them should start from the beginning of a consultation, assess the symptoms/duration/other products tried etc and find out if there is a product available on Pharmacy First that would be clinically appropriate to supply in this way. All consultations should start with a symptom - so staff should start the consultation, and find out if this method of supply is appropriate for the patient - the correct first line product could be only available as an OTC purchase, or a product via Pharmacy First.*
- 2. If a patient comes in and asks for something on Pharmacy First because the surgery told them to come to us to get something on Pharmacy First, should I refuse supply?**  
*As above, no, you shouldn't refuse to supply this. Follow the process detailed in the above question - carry out a consultation, and choose the most clinically appropriate option for the patient - this may be OTC purchase or a product via Pharmacy First.*
- 3. If a patient needs a product via Pharmacy First, but I only have a smaller pack size in stock (not the size on the Pharmacy First formulary) - can I supply the smaller pack?**  
*No, unless you wish to sell the product as an OTC purchase. You will not be paid for pack sizes that are not listed on the Pharmacy First formulary - these will be rejected at practitioner services.*

## Learning Point

Please ensure you always select the correct pack size when issuing a product via the Pharmacy First service. There has been an increase in the number of rejected products over the past 6 months, which is causing a considerable amount of extra work for practitioner services.

## Smoking Cessation

### Specialist Smoking Service/Healthpoint

Healthpoint offer smoking cessation support via telephone or Attend Anywhere appointments. Please be reminded information on all their services can be found [here](#).

Healthpoint advisors are trained to provide specialist smoking cessation support where they can advise and support clients to stop smoking. They often have more time to spend with a patient and can delve deeper into health behaviour change. You should refer anybody who has had 2 attempts already in pharmacy.

Referrals for patients can be made by:

- Calling the NHS Grampian healthline: 08085 20 20 30
- Online referral - [Smoking Advice Service – Hi-Net Grampian \(scot.nhs.uk\)](#)
- Emailing [gram.healthpoint@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.healthpoint@nhs.scot)

## NES Pharmacy Update – July 2024

Please [click here](#) to view the July 2024 issue of the NHS Education for Scotland (NES) Pharmacy Update which includes community pharmacy workforce survey 2024, psychotropic drug directory, resources and upcoming events.

## Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



**Preparation for Independent Prescribing**

Our colleagues at NES have shared this useful information for any CPs starting their IP Training or planning to undertake their IP Training in the future.

[Read More](#)



**Participate in Community Pharmacy Scotland's 2024 Communication Survey**

Community Pharmacy Scotland (CPS) invites you to take part in our 2024 Communication Survey. Your feedback is essential in helping us improve our services.

[Read More](#)

## The Happy Place ☺

### Plastic Free July 2024

Plastic Free July is a global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution, working towards cleaner streets and safer oceans. The organisation provides resources and ideas to help people reduce single-use plastic waste every day at home, at work, and while out and about. For more information and to view the resources toolkit, [click here](#).



***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](mailto: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](#)*