

# Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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## Topiramate: Introduction of New Safety Measures, Including a Pregnancy Prevention Programme

Topiramate is now contraindicated in pregnancy and in women of childbearing potential unless the conditions of a Pregnancy Prevention Programme are fulfilled. Community pharmacies will receive materials by post in the coming weeks to support discussions with patients and implementation of the Pregnancy Prevention Programme, full details of these materials are described in the web page guidance [here](#).

It is important your teams read and are aware of this guidance. We are awaiting further details about this, but the attached document was shared across the primary care network to prescribers within NHS Grampian.

## Supply of Paracetamol to Infants Aged 8-12 Weeks

Please be reminded when supplying Paracetamol 120mg/5ml to babies aged 8-12 weeks, following their Men B vaccination, this should be recorded under the Public Health tab – **not** Pharmacy First. Paracetamol is not on the approved list for Pharmacy First for this indication, and it is not an anticipatory service. Although the PGD is no longer live, and the licensing has changed, it has not been included in the PF list.

## National PGD for Urgent Supply: Information on the Upcoming Revision

As you know, NHS 24 is responsible for the review/update of the National PGD for Urgent Supply of Medicines, Appliances and ACBS Products (UC PGD).

The next version (UC PGD v31) will have a new format and will be accompanied by a Medicines A-Z Look-up List. The Look-up List will mean you no longer have to refer to the BNF to identify whether a medicine can be supplied or not under the UC PGD. The UC PGD will be made up of two parts: the PGD (which still needs to be signed for legal purposes before use), and the Medicines A-Z Look-up List (which should be used alongside the PGD for reference). The attached screenshot shows what these will look like.

The Medicines Look-up List clearly defines those medicines which can (green) and cannot (red) be supplied, making it easier and quicker for you to identify this in practice. Medicines marked as amber are those medicines where supply is conditional e.g. only certain formulations are allowed.

Used together they should support you in helping anyone who has lost, run out of, or damaged a medicine, appliance or ACBS product and needs a further supply, providing them with the pharmaceutical care they need first time.

## Unused Medicines Campaign Launch

Medicines prescribed by GPs or given through Pharmacy First cost NHS Grampian over £121 million during the last financial year. This is in addition to those prescribed or supplied in hospitals.

An NHS Grampian Facebook survey around prescribed medicines was carried out earlier this year. This attracted 2800 responses from members of the public across Grampian, with opinions and concerns about the financial and environmental impacts of unused medicines. Six public focus groups, along with input from professionals, were used to develop our new NHS Grampian public campaign to raise awareness regarding these issues.

The key message of this campaign is: ***'When it comes to prescriptions... Please only order what you need'***, with the aim to reduce unavoidable waste having positive financial and environmental impacts. The campaign increases awareness on avoiding waste, but also on the safe disposal of unused medicines and encourages individuals to consider purchasing over the counter medicines for minor conditions.

This campaign is being officially launched to local and national press on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024, in Baird's Community Pharmacy by David Pfleger, Director of Pharmacy, a public representative Andy, and community pharmacist Anna.

We would like to encourage Community Pharmacies to support this campaign by linking to campaign materials on practice/pharmacy webpages. Please find the below YouTube video links:

- [Unused Medicines \(Video One\) \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [Unused Medicines \(Video Two\) \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [Unused Medicines \(Video Three\) \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [Unused Medicines \(Video Four\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

NHS Grampian Unused Medicines Web pages have been produced to support this campaign with additional facts and information available [here](#), which we encourage you to consider adding to your pharmacy web pages. Please also check NHS Grampian Facebook pages for links to the launch which you may wish to like and share.

If you have any feedback, please email: [gram.medicinesmanagement@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.medicinesmanagement@nhs.scot).

## Care Home Waste

Following queries from contractors please find below the following points of clarity regarding accepting medication waste from care homes:

- Accepting and processing medication returns (from any patient/setting) remains a contractual requirement for all pharmacies within NHS Grampian.
- The NHS Grampian Care Home Waste SLA is no longer active, meaning that the *additional* activities relating to care home waste within the SLA are no longer a requirement.

## Smoking Cessation

### Missed Submissions

As always, we remind you all to ensure good house-keeping in order to keep up-to-date with your smoking submissions. Using the “reports function” on PCR weekly will ensure no submissions are missed. **All sign ups should have 4 week data entered, even if they are unsuccessful or drop out.**

However, we understand that oversights can happen and we don't want you missing out on hard-earned payments or to lose data for National statistics, therefore, if your missed submission is under 12 weeks from the date you were meant to claim, you can alert your Public Health Practitioner. Please be aware that we can seek payment and amend the National data but CANNOT AMEND YOUR PCR. We will need the following information:

- Full CHI number and initials of patient
- Which submission was missed (4 weeks or 12 weeks)
- Was the patient successful or not in stopping smoking.

Remember if you missed the 4 week submission, you will be unable to submit on PCR for 12 weeks as the entry will become void. In this case, carry on as normal and alert us of the patient's progress at 12 weeks.

## Public Health Update

### Blood Borne Virus (BBVs) Testing by Post

Early diagnosis of Blood Borne Viruses (BBVs - Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV) can be lifesaving. All blood borne viruses are treatable, but if left untreated can lead to serious illness and death. Hepatitis C can be treated and cured with a short course of tablets, effective treatment for HIV means that those on treatment can have undetectable viral loads and live a normal healthy life span and Hepatitis B can be treated to ensure the person affected can stay healthy.

People with blood borne virus infections often have no symptoms, so there are people living with them who aren't aware that they are infected. The only way to find out if someone has a blood borne virus is to carry out a blood test.

Members of the public in Grampian can now order a postal BBV testing kit to be sent to their home. Alternatively we are encouraging services such as pharmacies and Community Treatment and Care hubs to stock postal testing kits to give out to clients who may require a test.

The test involves carrying out a finger prick, saving the blood onto a testing card and sending off the card to be processed. Testing kits come in a small A5 sized envelope and contain everything necessary to carry out the test, including detailed instructions. The client will be informed of their result if further action is required, and referred to the appropriate service as needed.

**We encourage you all to stock the kits, they have a decent shelf life so ordering 5-10 at a time, depending on the pharmacy (higher SUS may have a higher demand), should be sufficient. They do not take up much space!**

To stock these test kits to give out to patients, please email your requested number of kits and pharmacy address to: [gram.bbvpostaltesting@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.bbvpostaltesting@nhs.scot).

For more information on BBVs [click here](#). This leaflet, and the poster promoting postal testing are available to order free from NHS Grampian resources catalogue [here](#).

## Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up

### Emergency Care Summary Access

To apply for Emergency Care Summary (ECS) access please click the button below. From this link you will need to select which health board (NHS Board) you require ECS access for. From there you can then look through the options on each health boards web page to find out how to apply for ECS access...



### AMS Digital Programme Update

Our colleagues at National Services Scotland (NSS) would like to share their message about the AMS Digital Programme...

[Read More](#)



## The Happy Place 😊

### AI Tool – Rapid-RO

The new [research](#), funded by the British Heart Foundation, suggests that by rapidly ruling out heart attacks in these patients, the new AI tool – Rapid-RO – could help tens of thousands avoid unnecessary hospital stays each year in the UK, freeing up valuable NHS time and resource. The team found that of the 33,727 patients, the AI tool successfully ruled out heart attacks in over a third (36%) of patients, compared to 27% ruled out by troponin testing alone. In addition, among these patients, the current approach of troponin testing missed four times as many heart attacks (108 cases) compared to Rapid-RO (27 cases).



Professor James Leiper, Associate Medical Director, said: “This research demonstrates the important role AI could play in guiding treatment decision for heart patients. By quickly identifying patients who are safe to be discharged, this technology could help people avoid unnecessary hospital stays, allow valuable NHS time and resource to be redirected to where it could have the greatest benefit.

***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](#)*