

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



Contents

01: Shortage of Pancreatic Enzyme Replacement Therapy (PERT): Patient and Stock Management Update

02: Supply Constraint of Creon (Pancreatin)

03: Patient Safety: Removal of Epimax Products from the Grampian Area Formulary

04: MHRA Guidance - Dispensing Valproate Products

05: NHS Pharmacy First Scotland Approved List Update

06: PGD for the Urgent Provision of Medicines, Appliances and ACBS Products by Pharmacists

07: Public Health Update:

- Health Protection Alert: Summer Travel – Changing Epidemiology and Risks of Vector-Borne Disease in Europe
- Mandatory CPS Health Promotion Campaign

08: Smoking Cessation:

- Tobacco Smoking and Vaping Referrals
- Smoking Data for Jan-March 2024 (Q4)

09: NES Pharmacy Update – August 2024

10: Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up

11: The Happy Place ☺

Shortage of Pancreatic Enzyme Replacement Therapy (PERT): Patient and Stock Management Update

The attached document is an update to information circulated on 4th July. This document is intended for use by Primary Care and Community Pharmacy teams to support with the ongoing management of PERT shortages. Secondary care colleagues are covering PERT patients who are seen regularly within their services (cystic fibrosis, pancreatic cancer) and sending contact clinical notes to practices to provide further advice when appropriate.

Supply Constraint of Creon (Pancreatin)

To try to ensure that there is a broad distribution of all Creon® strengths across UK pharmacies, we have agreed to place quotas on the number of packs each individual pharmacy can order. For more information on the quotas in place, please speak with your wholesaler to discuss this.

If the quotas are below your regular monthly usage, please let your wholesaler know. Full document attached.

Patient Safety: Removal of Epimax Products from the Grampian Area Formulary

Please find the attached Patient Safety Information regarding the Epimax Products being removed from the Grampian Area Formulary.

MHRA Guidance - Dispensing Valproate Products

Please click [here](#) for the updated guidance from the MHRA on the dispensing of Valproate-containing products. We would encourage pharmacy teams to read and understand this guidance – which effectively mandates original pack dispensing of these products, with a few exceptions which can be made following assessment on a patient-patient basis.

Please note under 'Exceptional circumstances'

The manufacturer's original full pack does not have to be supplied where:

(i) **A risk assessment is in place** that refers to the need for the patient to be sold or supplied valproate-containing medicines in different packaging from its manufacturer's original full outer packaging (for example, in a monitored dosage system) and

(ii) Assuming that the product is authorised, there are processes in place to make sure that the patient receives the Patient Information Leaflet. That is not the case for unauthorised medicines, unless they are only unauthorised as a result of an assembly process.

NHS Grampian have produced a 'Health and Safety Risk Assessment,' that can be used in these exceptional circumstances. Please find attached 2 documents, which you can download and use.

'Assessment for Exception to Requirement to Dispense Sodium Valproate Containing Medicines in Original Packs – Community Pharmacies'

And

'HEALTH AND SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT'

This assessment should be done by an appropriate healthcare professional prior to dispensing the prescription. The outcome of the risk assessment should be documented clearly in the patient's record, and a copy of the assessment stored securely.

Note: It is advisable to review and update the risk assessment periodically (for example, there are changes in the patient's circumstances). Advise patients to proactively inform the pharmacy if their circumstances change.

NHS Pharmacy First Scotland Approved List Update

There has been an update to the NHS Pharmacy First Scotland Approved List which is now available to view [here](#). There is one minor change made in this edition which listed on page 2.

PGD for the Urgent Provision of Medicines, Appliances and ACBS Products by Pharmacists

Find attached the Patient Group Direction for the Urgent Provision of Medicines, Appliances and ACBS Products by Pharmacists Working within NHS Grampian, Highland, Orkney, Shetland, Tayside and Western Isles, Version 31.

Please be reminded all PGD submissions should be submitted via email to: gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot.

Public Health Update

Health Protection Alert: Summer Travel – Changing Epidemiology and Risks of Vector-Borne Disease in Europe

Please find the attached Public Health Scotland Health Protection Alert regarding Summer Travel – changing epidemiology and risks of vector-borne disease in Europe.

Mandatory CPS Health Promotion Campaign

The next community pharmacy Public Health Scotland campaign will be a re-run of 'Detecting Cancer Early'. Please display the double-sided poster in your window as soon as it arrives, which should be this week at the latest, and face the Eagles to the outside and the Robin to the inside.



- CPS campaign information - <https://www.cps.scot/latest-news/public-health-scotland-poster-campaigns>

- Scottish Government information - [Get Checked Early](#)
- Resources here - [HPAC \(durham.gov.uk\)](https://durham.gov.uk).

If you require a replacement poster holder, please contact APS Group at: stockorders.DPPAS@theapsgroup.com and a replacement will be sent out.

Smoking Cessation Update

Tobacco Smoking and Vaping Referrals

To simplify things and to stop repeating the same messages time and time again, we have put together a pathway for patients who smoke tobacco or vape. It's attached as a PDF and could be printed out and put in a prominent place for easy reference.

Smoking Data for January to March 2024 (Quarter 4)

In case you missed it last week, below is the data for all Grampian's Community Pharmacies. *The collective financial loss to pharmacies was £4230.*

	Oct - Dec 2023	Jan – March 2024
Total Number of Sign Ups	776	1124 45% IMPROVEMENT
Missed Submissions at 4 Weeks	254 (33% of total sign ups)	246 (22% of total sign ups)
Total Submissions Made at 12 Weeks	269 (34% of total sign ups)	485 (43% of total sign ups)
Missed Submissions at 12 Weeks	34	17
Total Number of Successful Quits	42 (5.4% of all sign ups)	257 (23% of all sign ups) 512% OVERALL IMPROVEMENT IN SUCCESSFUL QUITs!

NES Pharmacy Update – August 2024

Please [click here](#) to view the August 2024 issue of the NHS Education for Scotland (NES) Pharmacy Update which includes community pharmacy workforce survey 2024, opportunity to support delivery of the national NES Pharmacy Foundation Training Year curriculum, resources and upcoming events.

Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up

Adjusted Prices Review and Part 7 Additions & Deletions August 2024

As a part of our work with the Scottish Government and Public Health Scotland, we regularly raise lines of concern and work to secure adjusted prices for these. We also work with them regularly to review lines which have now stabilised and remove these as appropriate....



Navigating Free COVID-19 Test Availability in Scotland

In Scotland, free COVID-19 tests are strictly available to vulnerable patients who are at the highest risk of becoming seriously ill from coronavirus. Pharmacy teams can inform patients of this guidance to help manage expectations. COVID-19 tests are available to those who are eligible and can be ordered online via NHS Inform...

The Happy Place 😊

Excellence in Service Award Nominee

This week we wish to congratulate the team at Will Chemist on being nominated as a finalist for the Excellence in Service Award at Pride of Inverurie 2024!

This award recognises a business or individual that always delivers great customer service, delivers an excellent customer experience and makes their customers feel special.



[Pride of Inverurie 2024 | Finalists - We Are Inverurie](#)

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](#)