

# Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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## NHS Travel Health Vaccination Service Termination

A communication was sent out to all Community Pharmacies on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024 with notification of the planned termination of the Travel Health Vaccination Service by community pharmacies. This is attached again for your information. In consideration of the SLA 3-month notice, the service will fully terminate on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025. However, please note the immediate actions that must be followed before this time.

**With immediate effect, sites offering this service must restrict appointments and reduce the level of activity.** The fairest way to do 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.

Also find attached a reminder of the Public Health Consultant letter from 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024 and FAQ document. Please read closely to ensure your claims are accurate as requested by PCCT.

## Unused Medicines Campaign - Posters

All GP practices, community pharmacies along with vaccination centres, libraries and community centres across Grampian will shortly receive posters from the Unused Medicines Campaign. These are intended to continue the messaging to 'Only Order What You Need', we request these posters be displayed in public facing areas.

Further posters can be obtained on request, please contact: [gram.medicinesmanagement@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.medicinesmanagement@nhs.scot).

## Controlled Drugs Destruction

Please be reminded to minimise the quantity of controlled drugs awaiting destruction. Accumulation of expired and obsolete controlled drugs pose a significant risk in terms of loss, storage problems and errors owing to inadvertent supply. Such risks can be mitigated by prompt destruction. The Shipman Inquiry concluded that there were shortcomings in the systems employed for the safe management of controlled drugs. One of the subsequent recommendations permitted the Controlled Drugs Accountable Officer introduced in The Health Act 2006 to appoint Authorised Witnesses to witness the destruction of schedule two controlled drugs.

In NHS Grampian, the Authorised Witnesses contact community pharmacists every twelve weeks to ascertain if they are required to attend and witness destruction of schedule two controlled drugs. Community Pharmacists are urged to accept if they have any schedule two controlled drugs awaiting destruction and not delay until a later date. The same principles of good practice pertain to patient returned controlled drugs which should be destroyed with sufficient frequency to ensure that excessive quantities are not stored awaiting destruction.

Finally, if community pharmacists are asked to accept stock of schedule two controlled drugs from a Clinician for destruction the Clinician should be advised to retain the stock so that it can be destroyed in the presence of an Authorised Witness. This allows improved audit of the movement of controlled drug stock. If a community pharmacist inadvertently accepts schedule two controlled drug stock for destruction from a Clinician, it must be segregated within the CD cabinet and destroyed in the presence of an Authorised Witness.

### **Needle Exchange and Sharps Waste**

Community pharmacies should only accept pharmaceutical waste that directly relates to medicines prescribed by NHSG. We appreciate that it is not always possible to identify the source of the returned waste. However, we have received reports of some local businesses advising their colleagues to return waste to their local pharmacy.

One report referred to sharps waste from a local beauty/anaesthetic clinic. We ask community pharmacies to query the source of any sharps before accepting them.

If you are aware of similar practices or attempts in your local area, please report them to [gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot).

### **Survey: Experience of Providing Care to Patients with Cancer**

Find the attached flyer with details on a new international survey which has launched with the purpose of gaining a deeper understanding of the experiences, perceptions, and barriers facing community pharmacy teams when providing care to patients with cancer (or suspected cancer).

### **Smoking Cessation Update**

#### **Pharmacy Stop Smoking Pack Update**

The Pharmacy Stop Smoking Service Pack has been updated (Version 5), along with the Q&A's. We have attached the PDF for reference and you can also find this on the smoking page of our website here: [Smoking Cessation – NHS Grampian \(scot.nhs.uk\)](https://www.scot.nhs.uk/smoking-cessation/).

Please ensure you are referring to the most up-to-date version of the pack.

#### **Patients Who Have Had Multiple Cessation Attempts in Pharmacy**

As stated in last week's newsletter, please remember that the smoking specialist service (Healthpoint) can offer a more in-depth level of service than pharmacy time-restrictions allow and you should refer if a patient has had 2 or more attempts within a 12 month period. See pathway attached.

We are currently working together with Healthpoint, looking at ways to further support patients who have had multiple attempts(4 or more) without creating more work for you within the pharmacy setting and we will keep you updated on this progress.

## Public Health Update

### Sexual Assault Response Coordination Service (SARCS) Marketing Campaign

You should all have received packs for the next campaign which is highlighting the Sexual Assault Response Coordination Service (SARCS), a dedicated NHS Scotland service which offers healthcare and support following rape or sexual assault, if people aren't ready or are unsure about reporting to the police.

Included in your pack is a cover letter explaining the campaign and small Z-cards to hand out as appropriate. The campaign will run throughout October.

We will be sharing information on [Facebook](#) for you to share on your own platforms but you can find the complete toolkit here - [Sexual Assault Response Coordination Services \(SARCS\) Campaign | Scottish Government Marketing News \(prgloo.com\)](#)

More information on SARCS here - [Turn to SARCS | NHS inform](#)

### Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Testing Update

All pharmacies should, by now, be stocking the Blood Borne Virus self-test kits - available to order from: [gram.bbvppostaltesting@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.bbvppostaltesting@nhs.scot).

Public Health Practitioner, Penny Gillies, has kindly offered to do a 1 hour evening teaching session on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 from 7pm – 8pm** to update you on everything relevant:

*An update and Q&A session for all pharmacy staff about blood borne viruses (HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C) and sexual health. This informal and non-clinical session will cover local data, risk factors for BBVs, prevention, testing, treatment and resources as well as giving you up to date information about the services available to your patients.*

We hope as many of you as possible can attend the session, please note it is NOT just for trained pharmacists but for all staff, especially our Public Health Champions! Find the attached link to join: <https://teams.microsoft.com>.

### Public Health Campaign Calendar

There are lots of great causes being highlighted in October's NHS campaign calendar, including Stoptober, Sober October and Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Feel free to promote anything that may be useful within your own communities. We will be uploading information to [Facebook](#).

The full campaign calendar can be found here: [Hi-Net Grampian – Grampian's Health Improvement Network \(scot.nhs.uk\)](#)

## Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up

### Ask for ANI

From 4th November 2024, the Ask for ANI scheme will no longer be available in community pharmacies. The public can continue to use the scheme until that date.

[Read More](#)



### PCA(P)(2024)24-27 - SSP for Isosorbide Mononitrate (Chemydur® 60XL) Tabs

To advise of a Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) in place for isosorbide mononitrate (Chemydur® 60XL) modified release tablet, from 6 September 2024 to 27 September 2024.

[Read More](#)

## The Happy Place ☺

### World Pharmacists Day, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024

On 25<sup>th</sup> September, World Pharmacists Day was celebrated to recognise pharmacists for the role they play in improving global health. We are delighted to share some photos we received of the pharmacists at Buchanhaven pharmacy, Crimond pharmacy and Peterhead Health Centre pharmacy, who received flowers to celebrate their hard work and dedication!



***Please remember 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](#)*