

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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Quetiapine MR: Limited Stocks

Supply constraints impacting on all strengths (50mg, 150mg, 200mg, 300mg & 400mg) of modified release quetiapine have been identified.

This is not a stock out situation therefore no proactive switching of patients is recommended. The attached information is intended to support the management of patients should there be a situation where appropriate stocks cannot be procured to ensure continuity of supplies.

This information has been shared within the adult mental health specialist service for awareness should their support be required in managing patients.

NHS Grampian Guidance for Prescribing and Dispensing of Stoma Appliances in Primary Care

Please find attached the recently updated NHS Grampian Guideline for the Prescribing and Dispensing of Stoma Appliances in Primary Care. This guideline now contains a stoma accessory formulary, to assist Primary Care and Community Pharmacy when dealing with stoma appliance prescribing requests.

This will shortly be available via Grampian Guidance.

Glucagon-like Peptide-1 (GLP-1) Agonists and Oral Contraception

The Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH) are advising that individuals use contraception whilst using GLP-1 agonists, with additional advice for those using tirzepatide. Please find attached the FSRH statement and patient leaflet for more information.

Save the Date: Training Events

Pharmacist Independent Prescribing – Getting Started in Community Pharmacy	Wednesday 5 th March 2025, 7pm - 8.30pm.	This webinar is designed to support community pharmacist independent prescribers in the early stages of their prescribing journey, from service set up to expanding scope of practice and ongoing peer support. It will provide practical information to attendees on the process for registering with the GPhC as an IP and setting up the Pharmacy First Plus service in practice. Book your IP webinar place.
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NHS Education for Scotland - Trainee Pharmacist Substance Use Training Event	Tuesday 11 th March 2025, 10am – 12.30pm at Forest Grove House, Aberdeen.	<p>This event it is an opportunity to build on your understanding of substance use and how, as pharmacists, you can support these patients and be confident in clinical decision making.</p> <p>Click here to book via the link below by Friday 28th February 2025. This will be in addition to the NES day arranged for May, please ensure you have discussed this with your supervisor.</p> <p>Any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch: gram.smspharmacists@nhs.scot.</p>
Pharmacy in Practice 2025 Conference	Wednesday 12 th March 2025, Novotel Edinburgh Park	Click here for more details and registration.
Physical Assessment Skills Training Opportunity	Friday 28 th March 2025. Forrest Grove House, Aberdeen	Click here for more details and registration.
NES Annual Virtual Conference	Thursday 24 th and Friday 25 th April 2025	Building on the growing success of previous events, this year's theme is Learning for Change: Tackling Health Inequity through Education and Workplace Learning. For more information visit the NES Annual Conference 2025 website .

Smoking Cessation Update

Smoking Cessation Resources Reminders

Please find the following resources attached for your smoking cessation service:

- Patient Information Leaflet (to be provided to all news sign-ups)
- Smoking and Vaping Pathway (worth printing to have at hand)
- Very Brief Advice (VBA) algorithm (to be used opportunistically, remember that over 2/3rds of people who smoke want to stop!)

Please utilise these fully in the lead up to No Smoking Day on 12th March as discussed in last week's newsletter.

Smoking Cessation Success!

A shout out to a few pharmacies whose smoking data for Quarter 2, July-Sept 2024, showed excellence with no missed submissions, a high number of sign-ups and a 12-week-quit success rate well above the National average (22.9%):

- BA Christies who had 10 sign-ups, no missed submissions and 4 successful quits, a success rate of 40%.
- Right Medicine Ardach who signed up 11 patients, had no missed submissions and 4 successful quits, a success rate of 36%.
- A final shout out to Tarves who only had 5 sign-ups but 4 of those had successful quits, a whopping success rate of 80%.

Well done, please share any tips and good practice you have which could help others!

Public Health Update

Gold Awards

Revalidating successfully for another year are:

- Garthdee Pharmacy, led by Pharmacist Craig and PH Champion Lynne. They've done a great job in evolving their public health service promotion.
- Baird's Clifton Road, led by PH Champion Ashleigh and pharmacist Katie. They have a fantastic promotional area and have a huge amount of smoking cessation engagement, well done!
- Will Pharmacy in Inverurie. Pictured are the hard working team with key players, Fiona (Pharmacist) and Cindy (Public Health Champion).
- Strachan's in Banff have also revalidated successfully. Pictured here are John (Pharmacist), Mairi (Public Health Champion/ACT) Jane (Pharmacist) and not forgetting Julie who was working away in the dispensary.

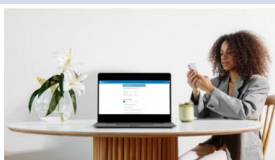


Well done everyone! Details of applying for the next cohort will follow around May.

MedWatch Newsletter – February 2025

Please find attached the February MedWatch Newsletter. This edition includes: NHS Grampian HEPMA User Alert: Prescribing "As Required Therapy" for patients with a Palliative Syringe Driver PAR, Shared Learning: Misunderstanding between "mg" and "ml", Sustainable alternatives to plastic medicines pots and spoons and Filters used in NHS Grampian for Preparing and Administering IV medicines in Clinical Areas.

Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



24/02/2025 • Graham Le Tissier

Medicines Care and Review (MCR) Ready Reckoner: 24th February 2025

This week's MCR Ready Reckoner has been updated and is now available to download or you can view it via the App.



20/02/2025 • Sarah Scott

Safe Spaces Scheme

From 4th November 2024, the Ask for ANI scheme has no longer been available in pharmacies. However, the Safe Spaces scheme has continued in over 6,000 Pharmacies, Banks and Building Societies across the UK. The Safe Spaces scheme is overseen by Scottish Women's Aid/Hestia.



20/02/2025 • Community Pharmacy Scotland

Valproate Drug Safety Update

New resources have been developed to support healthcare professionals in the management of Valproate prescribing.



20/02/2025 • Emma Taylor

Associate Member Applications Are Open

Our Community Pharmacy Health Board (CPHB) committees are at the forefront of local service negotiation. Currently, a number of our CPHB Committees have vacancies available for Associate Members for the term 2025-2028.

The Happy Place ☺

In 2025, just like previous years, *Walk All Over Cancer* is set to take place throughout March. It's a month filled with determination, hope, and collective strides against a common adversary. Walk All Over Cancer is an inspiring campaign where participants commit to walking 10,000 steps every day throughout a designated month.

More information here: [Walk All Over Cancer | Cancer Research UK](#)



Walk All Over Cancer

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.

*All weekly updates are uploaded to the [CP Grampian website](#).
Remember to like our Facebook page for regular updates: [Community Pharmacy Grampian – NHSG](#)*