

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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Rapid-on set overdoses – Drug Monitoring

A number of rapid-onset overdoses have been identified across Scotland and in Aberdeen City over recent weeks, leading to an increased level of harm. This has been associated with several near-fatal and fatal drug overdoses. Please note the attached Drug Alert Monitoring request and Drug Alert. NHS Grampian are keen to hear about any reports of rapid onset overdoses that match those in the case definition.

Please report any overdoses fitting the below case definition over 03/05/25 to 28/03/25 to gram.substancemisusealert@nhs.scot.

Unused Medicines – TV Campaign from 17th March

Continuing the NHS Grampian public campaign to reduce avoidable medicines waste NHS Grampian and NHS Tayside have joined forces to promote the 'order only what you need' message.

TV adverts will be running on STV from Monday 17th March for a period of 2 weeks (in the Tayside and Grampian broadcast areas), local radio adverts will also be airing during this time. These adverts mirror the information previous shared by NHS Grampian via social media/poster campaigns and are intended to increase awareness of the impact wasted medicines can have financially on the NHS.

A copy of the TV advert is available via the link below. We appreciate the ongoing support of community pharmacies in assisting individuals with queries regarding their medicines and in preventing avoidable waste wherever possible.

[NHS Wasted Medicines 30sec TVC on Vimeo](#)

If you have any comments or feedback regarding the impact of this campaign please contact: gram.medicinesmanagement@nhs.scot.

Patient Group Direction for the Administration or Supply of Typhoid for Travel by Healthcare Professionals

Please find attached the Patient Group Direction For The Administration Or Supply Of Typhoid For Travel Indications By Approved Healthcare Professionals Working Within NHS Grampian, Highland, Orkney, Shetland, Tayside And Western Isles, Version 2.2.

Patient Group Direction for the Administration or Supply of Cholera Vaccine For Travel Indications

Please find attached the Patient Group Direction For The Administration Or Supply Of Cholera Vaccine For Travel Indications By Approved Healthcare Professionals Working Within NHS Grampian, Highland, Orkney, Shetland, Tayside And Western Isles, Version 2.1.

Smoking Cessation Update

Tobacco Strategic Plan for the North East of Scotland

We are delighted to introduce the newly published tobacco plan for Grampian. This plan provides an example of how we all can work together to have a greater impact on tobacco related harm by accelerating reductions in smoking rates to reach our ambitious goal of 5% by 2034.

It's a long read with 6 priorities. Pharmacies fit mostly into priority 1 so we suggest, if you are short of time, you read the Forward and priority 1 sections.

More info here - [Tobacco Strategy](#)

Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



17/03/2025 • Graham Le Tissier

Medicines Care and Review (MCR) Ready Reckoner: 17th March 2025

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



14/03/2025 • Gordon Winter

Concerns Grow After A Sudden Increase In Overdoses In Scotland

Recent reports have highlighted an increase in sudden collapse after injecting or smoking heroin. This appears linked to a rapid onset into overdose and multiple repeat doses of naloxone being required to reverse overdose.



13/03/2025 • Robbie Collins

GPhC Virtual Listening Event: Wednesday 9th April 2025

Our colleagues at the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) will be hosting a virtual event to engage with pharmacy professionals on the key issues shaping the future of pharmacy.



13/03/2025 • Community Pharmacy Scotland

Sponsorship Opportunities At The CPS Charity Golf Day

Community Pharmacy Scotland (CPS) is delighted to host its **11th Annual Charity Golf Day** at the stunning **Mar Hall Golf and Spa Resort**. To help **raise essential funds** for this remarkable charity, we have expanded our sponsorship

The Happy Place 😊

No Smoking Day 2025

Thank you to Aberchirder, Wills Inverurie and Bairds King Street who showed us their fantastic No Smoking Day window and table displays, well done.

Promoting pharmacy services in Dr Grays was our very own PHP Denise. She engaged with lots of people and launched the new all singing all dancing Pharmacy Services banner!

We're sure lots more of you got involved, please send us your pictures!



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](#)*