

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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Community Pharmacy Controlled Drugs Incidents

A report was sent to community pharmacies by the CD team at the end of 2024, detailing the types of CD dispensing errors that have been reported. The top three incidents reported were:

- Dispensing errors
- Handout errors
- Unexplained loss/missing controlled drugs

We continue to see errors reported due to incorrect pack sizes being dispensed. Please be extra vigilant when dispensing original packs, as they often contain 30 as opposed to 28 solid oral dosage forms and this is frequently cited as the source of the error.

Supporting Children and Young People with Health Care Needs and Managing Medicines in Educational Establishments

Please find attached the updated guidance which now includes specific guidance around the appropriate use of the Pharmacy First service. This would be a useful reference to use, should you have any queries regarding supplies for school trips.

Buprenorphine Prescribing Switch

NHS Grampian are enacting a prescribing switch for patients receiving oral Buprenorphine products for opioid dependency. Attached is a community pharmacy leaflet which explains the rationale behind this switch and the actions for community pharmacies. There is also a patient leaflet attached which is for reference and can be given to patients for further information. Please ensure all community pharmacy staff members read the community pharmacy leaflet and action all relevant points.

Communication should be made to community pharmacies prior to Buprenorphine product changing by the patients prescriber/keyworker to allow time for pharmacy to order in the new Buprenorphine product, or prescriptions should be delivered to pharmacies in advance to allow new product to be ordered in time for prescription starting. Any queries regarding any of the information can be directed to gram.smspharmacists@nhs.scot.

Independent Prescriber Rota Submissions

Some of you may have noticed that we have begun uploading the 2025/26 Rota Submission to your store files hosted on Microsoft Teams. Please ensure you refer to this workbook for your April Rota submission.

Following feedback, we are extending the Rota Submission Deadline to align with the payments deadline of the 7th of every month. We appreciate that some of you complete all end-of-month admin tasks on the same day.

However, we would remind you that rota submissions are not associated with local payment workbook submissions and should still be completed using the Microsoft Teams Channel.

Locum Pack 2025-26

The NHS Grampian Locum Pack 2024-25 is now available on the community pharmacy website [here](#), which you will also find attached. Please encourage all locum pharmacists working in your pharmacies to register with NHS Grampian to receive communications directly.

Please be reminded if you wish to be added or removed from the locum distribution list, please contact gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot. A copy of the NHS Grampian Locum List can be provided on request from a contractor, but must not be shared. Each contractor that would like a copy must contact PCS directly.

Smoking Cessation Update

Varenicline Update

A few have asked about Varenicline. The current situation is that the National PGD is awaiting final sign off and it should be available very soon. We will keep you posted!

Training will be a requirement (many of you will not have used it before). Please note that CPS are having a learning evening to prepare you for roll out: **Wednesday 7th May at 7.30-9pm on Microsoft Teams.**

For more details and booking: [Ask Me Anything: Smoking Cessation Varenicline Service | Community Pharmacy Scotland](#)

Ban on Single Use Vapes

Back in October 2024, it was decided that from 1 June 2025, it will be illegal for businesses to sell or supply, offer to sell or supply, or have in their possession for sale or supply all single-use or 'disposable' vapes.

Single use vapes, when thrown away, damage our environment, cause fires in our waste streams, and place a significant financial burden on those who must clean up the mess.

Unfortunately, companies have been getting busy looking at ways to get around the "single use" terminology. We will keep you updated with developments and challenges as they arise.

Public Health Update

Poster Campaigns

You should all have received and be displaying your COVID Spring booster poster. Apologies that we do not always receive a heads up to each Government campaign or the timescale but we've seen many posters in your windows so it appears you're all ahead of us! Lyme disease may be the next campaign, sometime in May.

If you haven't received a poster or want a new mount or different size, you can email here: stockorders.DPPAS@theapsgroup.com.

More info on the poster campaign here: [COVID-19 spring vaccine poster for people with a weakened immune system - Publications - Public Health Scotland](#).

NHS and NICE Recommended Apps

We'd like to draw your attention to two NHS recommended Apps which have recently been added to the NICE guidance and encouraged to be used in primary care as first-line treatments to insomnia and anxiety.

[Sleepio](#) and [Daylight](#) are science-backed digital therapies, personalised to your patients' needs - with no need for prescriptions or a doctor's appointment. [Sleepio](#) is an effective long-term solution to sleep difficulties and has now become a registered medical device. [Daylight](#) is an effective long-term solution for anxiety and worry. Both have been subject to many randomised controlled trials with positive results.

You can find more information here: [Daylight and Sleepio](#)

The following are some learning resources you may find helpful:

- [Sleepio training recording](#) – Dr Dimitri Gavrilloff, Sleep Medicine Specialist (**8 mins**).
- In depth [webinar with PrescQIPP](#) - Tony Avery (National Clinical Director for prescribing NHSE) and Frimley ICS discussing digital CBT for Insomnia (**60 mins**).
- The Big Health website has a [description of how to offer Sleepio with link to physical assets](#) that can be downloaded and used locally.

Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



17/04/2021 • Community Pharmacy Scotland

COVID-19 Spring Vaccine Poster - Public Health Scotland

Our colleagues at Public Health Scotland (PHS) have asked us to share the following update regarding the COVID-19 spring vaccine poster for people with a weakened immune system.



17/04/2021 • Sarah Scott

Flu Deaths Rise in Scotland: How can Community Pharmacy in Scotland Help?

This week *The Scotsman* newspaper revealed that Scotland is on course for the highest number of annual flu deaths in almost half a century after more than 350,000 fewer vaccines were given this winter.



15/04/2021 • Sarah Scott

CPS Strategy for the Community Pharmacy Network - In Development

Development of a new CPS strategy is well underway, with a final draft soon to be sent to the CPS Board for review.



15/04/2021 • Sarah Scott

RGU Clinical Practice for Pharmacy Technicians Qualification

Robert Gordon University (RGU) have developed a qualification aimed at post-registration pharmacy technicians across the UK entitled: BSc (Hons) Clinical Practice for Pharmacy Technicians.

The Happy Place 😊

We hope you all had a lovely Easter weekend. Dickies Pharmacy, Kingswells, recently held an Easter colouring artwork competition. If your pharmacy celebrated, we'd be delighted to receive your pictures!



All weekly updates are uploaded to the [CP Grampian website](#).

Remember to like our Facebook page for regular updates: [Community Pharmacy Grampian – NHSG](#)