

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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Advagraf to Dallipport Renal Transplant Patients

For information, the Specialist Renal Service are about to review and switch a small number of renal transplant patients from Advagraf® to Dailipor® (tacrolimus) oral therapy.

This change in brand will be managed by the Specialist service. They will write to the patients/relevant GP practices and community pharmacies to advise of any changes to treatment on an individual patient basis. The Specialist service will ensure any required blood tests are undertaken and advise of any dose adjustments as necessary.

Practices should continue to prescribe Advagraf®, as currently, unless contacted to advise of this change on an individual patient basis. **This change is for renal transplant patients only.**

Patient Group Direction for the Supply of Varenicline Tablets

Please find attached the Patient Group Direction for the Supply of Varenicline tablets to patients aged 18 years and over by approved community pharmacists working within NHS Grampian, Highland, Orkney, Shetland, Tayside and Western Isles, Version 1.

Monthly Claim Workbook – Buvidal Claims

Buvidal Administration is currently an **invitation only** SLA. Please note a pharmacy should only be entering data into the Buvidal column if they have **administered** injectable Buvidal to a patient. A claim should not be entered for dispensing Buvidal alone. There have been a number of claims submitted for Buvidal in error from pharmacies that are not signed up to the SLA for Buvidal administration and are therefore not administering. Primary care contracts team will be in contact to arrange reclaim of moneys for any claims made in error.

For Information on SLA's see: [Service Level Agreements \(SLA's\) – NHS Grampian](#)

Datix Incident – Lessons Learned

Datix is used to report incidents, risks and near misses across NHS Grampian, which enable us to learn from these experiences and improve patient safety. We have received a number of reports involving compliance aids over the past few months, so thought there is some good learning points for you all to reflect on from these investigations.

Situation: Patient receives a weekly compliance aid, one of the medications in their box is paracetamol 500mg tablets, two to be taken four times per day. A prescription was provided to the patient for co-codamol 8/500mg tablets (100) for an acute presentation of pain, dosage two tablets four times per day. Two weeks later, another prescription is provided to the patient for co-codamol 15/500mg tablets (100), dosage two

tablets four times per day. Both of these acute prescriptions were dispensed at community pharmacy, and compliance aid continued to be supplied with paracetamol inside it.

Investigation: Community pharmacy supplied both acute prescriptions for co-codamol, not noticing this patient was a compliance aid patient and already receiving paracetamol at the maximum licensed dose. The prescriber, on both occasions, did not notice that this patient was a compliance aid patient and that they would already be supplied paracetamol. This led to an unintentional possible overdose for this patient, for a prolonged period of time. This patient had a fall, and was subsequently admitted to hospital- it was during the admission process that this error was discovered.

Learning: Both the community pharmacy and the GP practice have revised their processes for patients who receive a weekly compliance aid. The community pharmacy has updated their SOP, to ensure their PMR highlights when labelling, that a patient receives a weekly compliance aid- this will ensure that this is flagged to the pharmacist for clinical checking before dispensing/supply to patient. Any changes to the patient's medication is also now recorded on a separate sheet for that patient.

Please use this example to think about your own pharmacy- do you have a robust SOP in place for when dispensing prescriptions for patients who receive a compliance aid? Do you have a process in place that ensures you receive notification from GP practices when there is a change to a compliance aid patient's prescription?

Naloxone in Community Pharmacy

Please find attached a reminder of the letter shared on 24th April, around the supply of naloxone via community pharmacies. This document has been created by the SUS pharmacist team and is supported by the pharmaceutical care services team. Please ensure all pharmacy teams read this, and the following actions for your teams:

Actions for Pharmacy Teams

- Be aware of the information contained in this document.
- Ensure the Pharmacy has appropriate naloxone stock to provide the service(s).
- Ensure naloxone stock is in-date, re-order if not and claim as per the service specification(s).
- Note some Naloxone products are only supplied by certain wholesalers.
- Be aware of RADAR alerts and local alerts and act where needed.
- Ensure staff are familiar with the signs of overdose, and of the increased incidence currently.
- All members of the pharmacy team should be aware of both services (emergency supply and “take home” supply) and have undertaken the appropriate training.
- Be able to signpost to local treatment services.

Smoking Cessation Update

Varenicline PGD and Training

It's here at last! Find everything you need to know on the following link: [PCA\(P\)\(2025\)06 - Updated Patient Group Direction \(PGD\) For Varenicline | Community Pharmacy Scotland](#).

You will find the updated TURAS training course for all staff who deliver the service, even if you are experienced in smoking cessation services. This training has lots of new information and will take around 1-2 hours. There is a short quiz at the end where you must score over 80% to pass.

Links to all training on our webpage here: [Smoking Cessation – NHS Grampian](#). The circular is attached [here](#). Please try to familiarise yourself before the training event on Wednesday 7th May.

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. ASH Scotland have put together an article with all the information you need to know about the upcoming ban: [FAQs about the ban on disposable vapes - ASH Scotland](#)

Smoking Cessation Service Top Performers for Quarter 3!

We published the data for quarter 3 (Oct-Dec 2024) in last week's newsletter and would like to give shout-outs to the top performers. These pharmacies had zero missed submissions, a decent number of sign ups and a high percentage of successful 12-week quits.

- Joint in 1st place is Davidsons Banchory and Newtonhill, both with 60% success rate!
- Joint in 2nd place is Peterculter and Boots Dyce with 57% success rate
- 3rd place with 50% success rate is New Deer.

Well done everyone, fantastic work!

Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



06/05/2025 • Emma Ramage

Adjusted Prices Review and Part 7 Changes

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.



06/05/2025 • Milo Menzies

Prescription Collection Courier Service: 8th May 2025

Your next courier collection is scheduled for Thursday, May 8th, 2025. We have produced the following guidelines for your prescription bag submissions.



02/05/2025 • Graham Le Tissier

Closed for May Bank Holiday

We will be closed for the bank holiday on Monday the 5th May 2025.



01/05/2025 • Scottish Government

PCA(P)(2025)08 - Paxlovid Endorsing Guidance

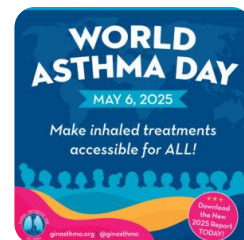
The NHS circular PCA(P)(2025)08 informs NHS Boards and community pharmacy contractors of new arrangements in place for the procurement and reimbursement of Paxlovid® (nirmatrelvir and ritonavir).

The Happy Place ☺

Today is World Asthma Day. In celebration of World Asthma Day 2025, the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) has chosen the theme "Make Inhaled Treatments Accessible for ALL". More information here: <https://ginasthma.org/wad-2025/>.

Our own Craig Marr is attending a sponsored walk next month (14th June) in honour of a close friend's mum who passed away from an asthma attack at home. The walk is in aid of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation, which provides evidence-based health information, confidential advice, and support to people with asthma and their families across Scotland. If you are interested in donating to this amazing charity or attending the sponsored walk, please find the below links:

- [Sponsored Walk Tickets, Sat 14 Jun 2025 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)
- [Asthma & Allergy Foundation with you every breath of the way](#)



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

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