

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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Nystatin Update

We have received numerous enquiries about obtaining nystatin recently. Below is a summary of the situation and the actions you should take:

- Nystatin oral suspension is available, but a change from branded (Nystan) to non-branded generic is causing confusion in the supply chain, resulting in stock not reaching pharmacies.
- Pharmacies should ensure their system orders generic nystatin suspension, not Nystan (the brand).
- Prescribers should prescribe as generic nystatin suspension, not Nystan, as pharmacies will be unable to dispense prescriptions for branded Nystan.

Reminder: 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.

Reminder: Paxlovid Endorsing Guidance – 1st May 2025

The attached amended 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).

Udney Station Branch Closure

Last year, Scotstown Medical Group informed the health board and HSCPs in City and Shire of its decision to close the branch surgery in Udney Station. This difficult decision was made after discussions since pre-covid and was made to safeguard the long-term sustainability of the practice, ensuring it can continue to meet the growing demand for general medical services.

All patients living in the community of Udney Station will remain registered with Scotstown Medical Group, and therefore full service is maintained. A list of all nearby available pharmacies and delivery options has also been published on the Practice Facebook and website.

Patients have the right to register freely with any practice if their home postcode is within the practice's boundary area. However, we are not currently undertaking any movement of patients to ensure a managed approach to any transfers which has been in place since last year to support Shire practices. Patients' right to move will be reinstated from 9th September 2025. Patients of Scotstown can continue to be registered and the practice have offered New Dyce as an additional venue for attending appointments should this be preferable.

Reminder: Email and Telephone Monitoring

Please ensure that you regularly check your NHS email account and remain attentive to incoming telephone calls throughout the day. Checking emails should be regarded as a critical task and carried out multiple times during the day. Unread messages may contain urgent information related to patient care or medication. We understand how busy you all are, and appreciate the challenges you have.

Regarding telephone calls, we understand that they can be disruptive and that pharmacy staff are often managing multiple responsibilities simultaneously. To help manage workload more effectively, have you considered implementing a rota system? In many pharmacies, designated team members are assigned to handle telephone calls during specific time windows. This approach can help distribute responsibilities more evenly and reduce pressure on individual staff members.

Vaccination Management Tool (VMT)

Please note that you can still use VMT for recording vaccines that are eligible for NHS vaccination, even when supplying them privately. VMT accounts which are not accessed in over 3 months are deactivated and you will require to reapply for access on the following link: <https://forms.office.com/e/MpfTAaq1WH>.

This process is to ensure access is granted to those who require it and covers all users within NHS Grampian.

Smoking Cessation Update

Varenicline Update – IMPORTANT

The recording from the Q&A session held on 7th May, is available [here](#).

Few things to highlight:

- **PGD** – NHS Grampian have released the Varenicline PGD, please find it attached, sign and send back to us as soon as possible. We will be collating a list of all participating pharmacies. Please remember that, even if you are an independent prescriber, you will need to sign the PGD if you decide to supply to patients using it.
- **Training** – All staff undertaking the smoking cessation service MUST complete the mandatory course before commencing the service. If you were already familiar with the old Champix, then you can skip to the assessment. <https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/1475/pharmacy-cpd-resources/pharmacy-services-essential-learning/community-pharmacy/nhs-scotland-smoking-cessation-service>.
- **CO monitoring** – The PGD states that CO monitoring “should” be used, it is not mandatory. Grampian has not re-introduced CO monitoring into pharmacies since COVID. The monitors have a shelf life of around 4 years and therefore all monitors in Grampian community pharmacies would need to be replaced which comes at a very high cost. However, this is currently under review and we will keep you updated with the decision.

- **Smoking Cessation Service Specification and PCR** – these are both areas under review for improvement and will be finalised by this time next year.
- **Vaping** – This is an area under review at CPS and it is hoped that pharmacies will be able to support vapers to quit vaping in due course. For now, please keep referring to the tobacco and vaping pathways.

Public Health Update

Could Your Pharmacy Achieve the GOLD Award?

The GOLD awards are a Public Health initiative where pharmacies are rewarded for delivering a range of more advanced public health services as well as delivering a high standard of core services.

The criteria may change yearly depending on Government objectives and initiatives and you may be asked to take part in small pilot projects.

If you feel your pharmacy can meet all the criteria areas (PDF attached) and would like to work towards this award, please submit an email to gram@pharmaceuticalcareservices.nhs.scot before **Friday 30th May** stating:

- Your pharmacy name and branch
- Your lead pharmacist prescriber's name
- Who would be your nominated Public Health Champion(s)
- A short blurb telling us why extra public health services would be good within your community

Please note that we only have 6 spaces this year. Pharmacies will be prioritised on their SIMD area, their smoking cessation data and their logistical space to have a health promotion area (this could involve window displays).

A one-off payment of £1100 will be provided to allow time for staff training and to purchase any display materials. This will consist of an upfront payment of £600 and a final payment of £500 on completion of the criteria and submission of feedback forms.

Payment for yearly revalidation is under review. Successful pharmacies will be alerted by Monday 16th June and initial visits will commence June/July 2025.

Save the Date: Training Sessions

Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland: Improve Stroke Recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 29th May, 11am – 11.30am. • Monday 9th June, 1pm – 1.30pm. • Wednesday 25th June, 10am – 10.30am. 	Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland are running 30-minute education sessions in partnership with the Scottish Government, aiming to improve stroke recognition. Find the attached flyer for more information.
Sexual Health Update – Face to Face or Online via MS Teams.	Friday 6 th June 2025, 9:10am – 12:30pm at The Civic Room, Aberdeen City Council Town House, Broad Street, Aberdeen, AB12 9UX or online via MS Teams.	Please click here to register, and view the attached flyer for more information.

Preparation for Experiential Learning

[Click here](#) to view upcoming dates.

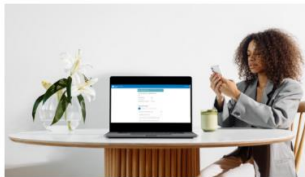
Please [click here](#) to view the dates available for Preparation for Experiential Learning Training.

Please could you prioritise for staff who will be facilitators for students 2025/26.

NES Pharmacy Update – May 2025

[Click here](#) to view the May 2025 NES Pharmacy Update. This issue includes: opportunity to support delivery of the national NES pharmacy FTY curriculum in 2025-26, preparing for the changes to the foundation training year 2024-25, new resource: vaccination in pregnancy, NES events and programmes.

Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



19/05/2025 • Graham Le Tissier

Medicines Care and Review (MCR) Ready Reckoner

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



19/05/2025 • Robbie Collins

Pharmacy Technicians Will Require PVG Membership from April 2025

We can now confirm that Pharmacy Technicians will be included under the updated definition of 'regulated roles' and will therefore require PVG Scheme membership from 1st April 2025.



15/05/2025 • Robbie Collins

CPS Hosts First Council Session of 25 | 28 Term

Yesterday (14 May 2025), Community Pharmacy Scotland (CPS) welcomed members to the first Council session of the 2025 - 2028 term.



14/05/2025 • Milo Menzies

Prescription Collection Courier Service: 22nd May 2025

Your next courier collection is scheduled for Thursday, May 22nd, 2025. We have produced the following guidelines for your prescription bag submissions.

The Happy Place 😊

We are delighted to give a shout-out to Holly, trainee pharmacist at Newtonhill. Throughout her foundation training year Holly has taken an interest in the public health challenges that the public face in Grampian but particularly women's health.

Holly has set up a public health stand at Newtonhill Pharmacy to aid in tackling the ever-growing challenges with public health in Grampian which includes free period products to tackle period poverty in the local area.

She is seen here with the free period products but also a green bag to promote the ongoing green bag scheme. Excellent initiatives Holly!



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](#)*