

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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Updated Service Documentation for Community Pharmacy Provision of Prophylactic Antipyretic (Paracetamol) Following the Meningococcal Group B Vaccine; and Other Childhood Vaccinations

Please find the attached Circular which advises Health Boards and community pharmacy contractors of an updated service specification for the community pharmacy provision of prophylactic antipyretic (paracetamol) following the meningococcal group B vaccine; and other childhood vaccinations. It also provides supporting clinical guidance.

UK Government Restrictions on the use of Puberty Suppressing Hormones (Puberty Blockers); Additional Information for Prescribers and Pharmacists/Dispensing Doctors

As detailed within the attached letter, on 29th May 2024, the UK Government introduced emergency restrictions on the use of gonadotrophin releasing hormone (GnRH) analogues when prescribed to suppress puberty as part of treating gender incongruence and/or gender dysphoria in children and young people who are under 18 years of age.

The First Emergency Order commenced on 3 June and expired at the end of 2 September. Two further orders were laid with the Second Emergency Order commencing in Northern Ireland on 27 August and in Great Britain on 3 September – it expired across the UK at the end of 26 November. The Third Emergency Order came into force from 27 November 2024 in the UK and expired on 31 December 2024.

Following a targeted consultation and advice from the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM), the UK Government laid legislation on 11 December 2024, which came into effect on 01 January 2025, that put in place an indefinite ban. In line with the CHM recommendations, there will be a review of the Order, in consultation with the CHM recommendations, this is expected to start in April 2027, with a report to be published by the end of October 2027. The UK Government's announcement is published here: [Ban on puberty blockers to be made indefinite on experts' advice - GOV.UK](#).

The arrangements apply to medicines that consist of or contain buserelin, gonadorelin, goserelin, leuprorelin acetate, nafarelin, or triptorelin. This includes, but is not limited to, medicines sold under the brand names: Decapeptyl®, Gonapeptyl Depot®, Salvacyl®, Prostag®, Staladex®, Zoladex®, Synarel®.

Emergency supplies by pharmacies

Another effect of the emergency restriction is that an emergency supply of a GnRH analogue made under Regulations 224 (Emergency sale etc by pharmacist: prescriber unable to provide prescription) and 225 (Emergency sale etc by pharmacist: at patient's request) of the Human Medicines Regulations 2012, is no longer permitted.

Seasonal Influenza: Prescribing of Antivirals 2024-25

Please find the attached letter to advise that the routine prescribing of antivirals for influenza by GPs in the community should now cease. This means:

- GPs and other prescribers working in primary care should not prescribe antivirals for the prevention or treatment of influenza on a GP10 prescription form; and
- Community pharmacists should not supply antiviral medicines in primary care on presentation of a GP10 prescription form. This advice does not impact on prescribing of antivirals in hospitals or as advised by NHS Public Health Department health protection teams for the management of incidents / outbreaks of influenza.

Reminder: GP Practice Email Enquires

When emailing GP practices with enquiries, please can we politely ask you sign the email with name/role in pharmacy to allow the GP practices to respond appropriately.

Community Pharmacy Controlled Drugs Incident Report 2024-25

Please find the attached Controlled Drugs incident report, which highlights 209 community pharmacy controlled drug incidents from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 with the most common trends being dispensing errors, theft/fraud/actual/potential and unexplained loss.

Community pharmacists are requested to review their storage arrangements for controlled drugs to ensure there is adequate segregation of different strengths and formulations to minimise the risk of selecting the wrong product.

Community pharmacists should also reflect on how they dispose of controlled drugs packaging and consider whether there is an opportunity for another member of staff to confirm that the packaging is empty and there are no small strips of foil contained in the patient information leaflet.

Smoking Cessation and Public Health Update: Reminders

- Please read and sign the Varenicline PGD, and submit this as soon as possible to: gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot.
- You must do the training before you commence using Varenicline. If you used Champix before, you can skip to the assessment. [NHS Scotland Smoking Cessation service | Turas | Learn](#).
- CO monitoring is under review, you should not be using your old monitors.
- Missed 4-week submissions have risen in pharmacies, please review your housekeeping to ensure all submissions are on time (you may have been sent an email).
- The disposable vape ban will come into force on 1st June
- The current Government campaign is Lyme disease, please ensure you are displaying the correct poster, some of you still have very old posters up.
- Applications open for the GOLD awards until 30th May. See the below blurb and attached criteria.

FINAL REMINDER: 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.

Palliative Care Education Sessions

All palliative care pharmacies have been notified of the attached upcoming education opportunities from 6pm on Wednesday 28th May 2025 and Wednesday 11th June 2025 via email.

We acknowledge early evenings may be difficult for pharmacists to attend and we are mindful of feedback received on previous sessions in relation to this, therefore we are in discussion with the organiser to record these sessions. If you cannot attend any of these sessions, we have been advised more opportunities will be made available later in the year.

As a reminder proof of attendance to at least one event should be sent to gram.pcctpharmacy@nhs.scot to initiate the second contractor payment under this SLA.

Vocational Training Foundation Programme – Cohort 4

NES are pleased to open the registration for Cohort 4 of the Vocational Training Foundation Programme. As you are aware, we have now moved to a twice-yearly enrolment cycle, in January and June of each year. We aim to run our next cohort, **cohort 4 from mid - June 2025**.

At this stage, NES request that you return the names and email addresses of the Post-Registration Pharmacy Technicians that wish to enrol on this cohort, along with their tutor/work-based supervisor details by no later than **Friday 30th May 2025** to: nes.pharmacytechnicians@nhs.scot, which will allow time to gauge demand and plan appropriately.

Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



26/05/2025 • 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.



22/05/2025 • Scottish Government

PCA(P)(2025)10 - Updated Men B Paracetamol Service Spec

Updated guidance for pharmacy provision of prophylactic paracetamol after MenB and other childhood vaccines, plus supporting clinical info.



22/05/2025 • Gill Paterson

Digital Prescribing And Dispensing Pathways Programme Benefits Survey

In order to support our work with the Digital Prescribing and Dispensing Programme (DPDP), we would appreciate it if you are able to provide us some estimates for your pharmacy



21/05/2025 • Robbie Collins

Seasonal Influenza: Letter From The CMO

The Chief Medical Officer has asked us to share the following advice with the network: Community pharmacists should **not** supply **antiviral medicines** in primary care on presentation of a GP10 prescription form.

The Happy Place ☺

Suzanne Cowie and Laura Karim represented Grampian Community Pharmacies at the Community Appointment Day (CAD) event, held on Wednesday 21st May at the Bon Accord Vaccination & Wellbeing Hub. This particular CAD focused on patients with COPD and so we very much promoted smoking cessation services. We received lots of very positive comments about how happy patients were with their own pharmacies which was great to hear, keep up the FANTASTIC work!



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](#)*