

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update

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Management of Medication Shortages

Over the past few weeks we have begun to see the emergence of potential medication shortages. As a result, we would like to share with you the information below.

Management of shortages

The NHS Grampian Medicines Management Team (part of the Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate) work alongside NHS Grampian Medicines Information & relevant medical specialists to provide a timely and co-ordinated approach to medication shortages and discontinuations. This often requires a significant amount of background work to understand issues and potential actions before communications can be disseminated.

Part 7 medication shortages

Often, when a medication included in Part 7 of the Scottish Drug Tariff (SDT) goes into short supply we see variability in the pricing of these medicines. This can result in the price at which contractors can purchase these medicines to rise, sometimes to a price higher than the SDT reimbursement price.

In such circumstances community pharmacies are kindly reminded that:

1. All shortages should be reported to CPS to allow pricing negotiations to be undertaken ([CPS Members Area | Shortages](#)).
2. Regardless of procurement price, medication should be ordered for patients without delay. Failure to order or supply medication due to the purchase price is considered a breach of contractual requirements.

A significant volume of feedback is generated as a result of pharmacies having automated systems in place to cancel orders for medication above tariff price, or where pharmacies manually choose to not order medicines in this situation. This can often result in incorrect information regarding availability coming to central teams, generating significant unnecessary workload across the system and (most importantly) impact on patients getting a timely supply of their medicines. Pharmacies are asked to be alert to this issue and ensure that all medications are ordered for patients in a timely manner, regardless of cost.

Reminder: shortage information

The [Specialist Pharmacist Service Medicine Supply Tool](#) provides information on current and resolved medicine supply issues. This can be accessed by community pharmacy and can provide a clear picture on known supply issues.

NHS Grampian Remote Delivery of Prescribing Efficiencies

Sharing for community pharmacy awareness. The NHS Grampian Medicines Management Team (part of the Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate) are supporting general practice with the delivery of quality cost effective prescribing via remote input to practice. Some of this work involves technical switches to ensure cost effective use of medicines.

Community pharmacies are asked to be alert to this work, noting that for some medicine switches information will be communicated to patients via the right-hand side of the patient's prescription.

For Action: Pharmacy Prescriber Training Survey

NHS Grampian now has a total of 114 Pharmacy First Prescribers working across the Health Board. We truly value the work you do and the support you provide to patients. We understand that many of you are keen to keep your prescribing skills up to date so you can feel confident in assessing and treating patients.

We're pleased to share that NHS Grampian has begun exploring the possibility of offering simulation training events, which will be free for all prescribers to attend. We have trained cascade trainers who have completed NES training courses and are well-equipped to deliver interactive sessions and workshops to support your prescribing competencies.

To help us plan these courses effectively, we kindly ask you to complete this survey by **Monday 30th June 2025**. If you have any additional comments or suggestions, please use the comments box at the end of the survey: [Pharmacy First Plus Simulation Pilot Training](#).

Aberdeen City Study: PHOENIX

Please be reminded of the PHOENIX study for people who are homeless and also face other disadvantages currently living in Aberdeen City. This study will identify if a pharmacist and ADA worker intervention can improve the health of this group.

Recruitment to the study is now open and we encourage Aberdeen City pharmacies to display the attached poster or share with any patients you think might be interested.

Patients enrolled in the study may present with prescriptions from Timmermarket clinic for general medicines (such as antibiotics) which you may not expect to see on these forms. Due to the outreach nature of the project, some prescriptions will be handwritten.

Public Health Update

GOLD Class of 2026

We currently have 18 GOLD pharmacies in Grampian who deliver advanced Public Health services using a MEOC (make every opportunity count) approach. 6 new pharmacies for the class of 2026 have been selected and were notified via email on Monday 16th June, so please ensure you check your inbox if you applied!

Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



19/06/2025 • 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.



16/06/2025 • Graham Le Tissier

Prescription Collection Courier Service: 19th June 2025

Your next courier collection is scheduled for Thursday, June 19th, 2025. We have produced the following guidelines for your prescription bag submissions.



12/06/2025 • Adam Osprey

NHS 24 – Clarification on Clinical Contact Records and Emergency Supply Requests by NHS 24 Prescribers

Following some feedback from the community pharmacy network, our colleagues at NHS 24 have pulled together the attached summary to explain the two main types of eMail communication that they regularly send out to pharmacy teams in support of patients.



12/06/2025 • Graham Le Tissier

My Quit Journey: Week Two with the Varenicline Service

Join me Graham Le Tissier for week two of my quit journey using the Varenicline service.

The Happy Place 😊

This week we are delighted to give a shout out to Lauren Macintyre, Newtonhill's amazing Saturday girl. Lauren has just completed her degree in biomedical sciences (pharmacology) from Aberdeen University with a first class honours degree and has worked so hard over the last four years, but particularly over her last year. The team at Newtonhill could not be more proud of Lauren, congratulations!



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](#)