

# Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update

Issue ##275  
24<sup>th</sup> June 2025



## Contents

01: Inappropriate Supplies on CPUS

02: Agency Referrals

03: Provision of ORT within Custody

04: For Action: Pharmacy Prescriber Training Survey

05: Public Health Update: Alcohol Awareness Week, Stocking Free Condoms

06: Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up

07: The Happy Place ☺

## Inappropriate Supplies on CPUS

Following a review of medication supplied under the community pharmacy urgent supply arrangements (CPUS) the information below was cascaded by the Controlled Drugs Team earlier this year. Regrettably, we continue to see supplies of medication which are not allowed on CPUS and wish to reiterate:

- All **schedule 2 and 3 controlled drugs are excluded** under this patient group direction (PGD), except midazolam oromucosal solution for the emergency treatment of status epilepticus.
- All morphine containing preparations are excluded under the CPUS PGD. **Morphine 10mg/5ml oral solution is a schedule 5 controlled drug but must not be provided under this PGD.**
- Patients requiring drugs excluded under this PGD should be referred onto the GMED service if the supply is felt necessary.
- Community pharmacists should exercise their professional judgement and consider limiting the quantity supplied for a medication which has the potential for abuse.

The Controlled Drugs Team appreciate your co-operation and will continue to monitor the situation.

## Agency Referrals

We have received reports that agency referral prescriptions received via email at community pharmacies from GMEDs, are not always arriving at community pharmacies via post. Although this is not common, we have discussed the process that should be followed, should this happen.

If you receive a prescription from GMEDs via the agency referral process, and have not received the original prescription within **one week**, you should send an email to [gram.gmedurgent@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.gmedurgent@nhs.scot), along with a scanned copy of the agency referral you received. A member of the GMEDs team will chase this prescription, and ensure you receive it.

## Provision of ORT within Custody

### Kittybrewster Custody Suite

The custody suite is now in a position to be giving Methadone, Suboxone and Espranor to patients. Initially we will only be dispensing to patients who are going to be in custody for over 48 hours (Friday/ Saturday/ Sunday) however, longer term this could be for patients who come in during the week also.

The nurse on duty will contact the patient's pharmacy by phone to confirm the medication, dose and attendance. We will only be able to dispense someone's Methadone/ Suboxone/ Espranor if the pharmacy can confirm the above.

If someone is dispensed Methadone/ Suboxone or Espranor over the weekend whilst in police custody, the nursing staff will follow this up with an email of what medication they have received and when they last had this. The patient's prescriber (CPN or GP) will also be made aware of this.

Patients **WILL NOT** receive a dose of Methadone/ Suboxone or Espranor prior to court on a Monday morning due to the risk of double dosing - their last dose of Methadone/ Suboxone/ Espranor would be the Sunday and nursing staff will email following administration of Sunday dose so there is written confirmation of this.

Nursing staff will endeavour to phone pharmacies on Monday morning to provide verbal update however, this may not always be feasible prior to patients leaving for court so email contact is to ensure there is communication.

### **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 30<sup>th</sup> 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](#).

### **Public Health Update**

#### **Alcohol Awareness Week: 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

Just a heads up, especially for our GOLD pharmacies, that this will take place 7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> July 2025. This year's theme is around alcohol and work so perfect for staff as well as patients.

Alcohol Awareness Week is coordinated by Alcohol Change UK. Each year, over 6,000 public health teams, workplaces, GP surgeries, pharmacies, hospitals, charities and other community groups across the country sign up to take part using resources provided. If you'd like to take part, visit the link here: [About Alcohol Awareness Week | Alcohol Change UK](#).

Also, as always, posters and props can be ordered free here: [HPAC](#). We'd love to see any displays!

#### **Stocking Free Condoms**

Can we remind you that your pharmacy can register with NHS Grampian Resources to stock free condoms. We urge as many as possible to register and remind our GOLD pharmacies that this is a mandatory requirement.

The service aims to provide free condoms across Grampian to reduce sexual health inequalities in populations most vulnerable to poor sexual health outcomes so we mostly urge those pharmacies who sit in a lower SIMD area. If you are interested, please email: [GRAM.freecondoms@nhs.scot](mailto:GRAM.freecondoms@nhs.scot) or call 01224 558504.

## Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



20/06/2025 • Matt Barclay

### CPS Welcomes Service Renewal Framework

Read our Chief Executive's latest blog on the development of a new Health and Social Care (HSC) Vision in Scotland



19/06/2025 • Graham Le Tissier

### My Quit Journey: Week Three with the Varenicline Service

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



19/06/2025 • Amanda Henderson

### Top Three Items from the July CPS Board

The following are the Top Three items currently under discussion and review by your CPS Board. There is no specific detail, yet, as these are currently "works in progress". Further detail will follow as available.



19/06/2025 • Sarah Scott

### Prevent, Detect & Treat at the Scottish Conservative Conference

CPS highlights the role of community pharmacy in prevention, early detection, and treatment at the Scottish Conservative Party Conference 2025.

## The Happy Place 😊

As part of Pride month, we'd like to take this opportunity to celebrate our LGBTQ+ colleagues and community! More than 5,000 people gathered for the city centre parade and community-led festival in Duthie Park in celebration of Grampian Pride on 7th June, were you there? If so, Grampian Pride are inviting attendees to share their favourite photos from the event to be featured on the official Grampian Pride website. Submit your photos to: [mail@grampianpride.org](mailto:mail@grampianpride.org)

Pictured here are our NHS Grampian marchers but you can see more photos in the picture galleries at these links:

- <https://www.facebook.com/GrampianPride>
- <https://www.aberdeenlive.news/.../thousands-gather...>

Happy Pride everyone! 🏳️‍🌈



***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](mailto: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](#)*