

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



Contents

01: National Patient Safety Alert- Bumetanide 1mg tablets

02: UK Government restrictions- Puberty Suppressing Hormones

03: Drug Safety Update – Valproate

04: Reminder- Ordering of Antiviral Medication

05: Amendments in Respect of Community Pharmacy Remuneration

06: Public Health Update

07: Smoking Cessation

08: Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up

09: The Happy Place ☺

National Patient Safety Alert – Bumetanide 1mg tablets

Please find link here- [NPSA: bumetanide](#) to NPSA for your information. This covers supply issues with bumetanide 1mg tablets which are expected to last until mid-August 2025.

Around 1500 patients across NHS Grampian are currently prescribed this medicine - due to timelines associated with supply issues it is likely that not all patients will be impacted.

Primary care have been advised, as per NPSA:

- Do not initiate new patients on bumetanide (please note acute specialities have been informed of this issue and advised to avoid recommendations of bumetanide).
- Be aware of information within NPSA & where a patient is unable to source a timely supply of their medication please review patient and NPSA options.

If any community pharmacy have patients for whom they are unable to source a timely supply of medication - please ensure prompt referral to Primary Care for an alternative.

UK Government restrictions on the use of Puberty Suppressing Hormones (Additional information for prescribers and pharmacists/dispensing doctors)

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 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®

The restrictions mean **it is a criminal offence** for a doctor, pharmacist or any other individual to sell or supply a GnRH analogue to a child or young person under the age of 18 years other than in the specific circumstances described in the attached letter. The restrictions affect **private prescriptions** for GnRH analogues authorised by non-UK registered and UK registered prescribers although the way in which they are affected differs depending on whether the prescriber is registered in the UK.

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.

Please ensure you and your teams have read the attached letter from The Scottish Government, to ensure you all understand the emergency restrictions that have been out in place.

Drug Safety Update- Valproate

Please find attached update and educational materials from the Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency in relation to Valproate (Belvo, Convulex, Depakote, Dyzantil, Epilim, Epilim Chrono or Chronosphere, Episenta, Epival, and Syonell▼): updated safety and educational materials to support patient discussion on reproductive risks

Reminder – Ordering of Antiviral Medication

As a reminder all community pharmacies may now receive a CoPPr prescription for all Covid antiviral medications and should order stock as they would routinely by wholesaler. Please remind your team of the attached letter sent by NHS Grampian Director of Pharmacy-David Pflieger on 6th June 2025.

Amendments In Respect Of Community Pharmacy Remuneration – April 2025

Please find attached NHS Circular PCA(P)(2025)18-Pharmaceutical Services: Amendments in respect of community pharmacy remuneration arrangements - from 1st April 2025.

This circular sets out to community pharmacy contractors and NHS Boards the details of the community pharmacy funding arrangements for 2025/26.

Public Health Update

Alcohol Awareness

This week is Alcohol Awareness Week! Please find a link below for Scottish Health Action on [Alcohol Problems](#) (SHAAP)'s updated cancer guidance for health professionals. This guidance aims to help inform health professionals on the link between alcohol consumption and cancer risk, alcohol attributable cancer rates in Scotland, opportunities for interventions, and on how alcohol can interact with cancer treatment. [Alcohol & Cancer Risks: A guide for health professionals \(2025\) - Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems](#)

We encourage you to get involved in alcohol awareness week in whatever ways you can. GOLD pharmacies, we'd love to see any displays!

World Hepatitis Day

World Hepatitis day is on July 28th. It takes place every year and is a great opportunity to raise awareness of viral hepatitis. It is estimated that around 39,000 people across Scotland are chronically affected by hepatitis C – with just under half not yet aware of their infection, and available data shows that hepatitis B affects approximately 9000 people in Scotland, with more than half unaware of their infection. In Grampian our aim is to find and treat people who are affected by viral hepatitis, and to spread the word about how to prevent infection. We need to do this as quickly as possible- people living with untreated chronic hepatitis can't wait any longer for life saving treatment.

We would encourage you to talk and advertise the attached information and resources with your patients.

Referring Families to Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs

Working in a pharmacy setting, you are often a first point of contact for people affected by someone else's alcohol or drug use. Whether it's a parent picking up a prescription while carrying the weight of worry for their child, or a spouse quietly managing medications for a partner in recovery, these silent struggles will often unfold in front of you. A referral for the affected family member to Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs could make a real difference.

We would encourage you to visit the [Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol & Drugs website](#) and see attached information and referral information you can share to support your patients.

Smoking Cessation

Varenicline training course

A reminder that before signing the Varenicline PGD, you must complete the new, updated course:

[NHS Scotland Smoking Cessation service | Turas | Learn](#)

The course will take you approximately 1.5-2 hours. If you have used the older branded Champix before, then you can skip to the short assessment. You must score 80% to pass and there'll be an option to obtain a certificate after successful completion.

PCR Common Error – Telephone Numbers

A reminder please that if you do not know the patient's phone number, DO NOT INSERT THE PHARMACY NUMBER, just put UNKNOWN. This error results in your PCR file not being successfully submitted to the National database and therefore payment will be void. Also a reminder to allow a week (a Thursday to pass) before opening a new PCR file for the same patient to avoid errors at the National database end and, again, void payments.

Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



07/07/2025 • 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.



04/07/2025 • Scottish Government

PCA(P)(2025)17 - Estradot® HRT Patch SSPs Extended

SSPs for Estradot® HRT patches now end 10 Oct 2025. Pharmacists may substitute with Evorel® or Estraderm MX® to manage supply issues.



03/07/2025 • NES

Virtual Discussion Group Facilitators

NES seeks pharmacists to facilitate virtual discussion groups for 2025-26 trainees. Support learning, share expertise, and shape future practice.



02/07/2025 • Emma Ramage

Removed Lines from Parts 2, 3, & 4 of the Scottish Drug Tariff

Removed Lines from Parts 2, 3, 4 of the Scottish Drug Tariff

The Happy Place 😊

A huge congratulations to all the pharmacy students who have recently graduated with a Masters of Pharmacy (MPharm) degree!



Pictured above we have Murray from Summerhill pharmacy and Ellyssa and Raegan from Buchanhaven. If you have any graduation photos, share them with us as we would like to feature them!

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](#)