

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



Contents

01: Submission of SLA Sign Up Sheet and Monthly Claims

02: Pharmacy Practice Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

03: Smoking Cessation Update: Final Reminder: Supply of Carbon Monoxide Monitors – **Requires Action by Friday 1st August 2025**, Smoking Cessation Data for Jan – March 2025

04: Public Health Update: Blood Borne Virus (BBV) Test

05: Save the Date: Training Sessions

06: Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up

07: The Happy Place ☺

Submission of SLA Sign Up Sheet and Monthly Claims

The deadline for submissions of the SLA Sign Up Sheet was Friday 25th July 2025. If you have not already done so, please complete and submit this as soon as possible to the Primary Care Contracts team: gram.pcctpharmacy@nhs.scot.

All monthly claims must now be submitted on the recently distributed Rev 6 workbook which was provided by the Primary Care Contracts team on 4th July 2025 and a reminder about this was also issued on 25th July 2025. This is due to the agreed uplift of fee's, so incorrect submissions will not be processed.

Pharmacy Practice Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly evolving, but where does it fit with pharmacy practice? UKMi have published a position statement on its use. The key issues are as follows:

- Potential exclusion of information (e.g. information within subscription resources) leading to incomplete, inaccurate or partially incorrect/fully incorrect information
- Generation of plausible-sounding responses rather than ensuring factual correctness. This includes 'hallucinations' where fabricated or inaccurate information is presented convincingly, increasing the risk of confirmation bias.
- GDPR and copyright concerns around the processing of sensitive or confidential data through AI and storage on external servers
- Carbon emissions due to significant energy requirements

A recent example of an AI error was its suggestion of co-amoxiclav as an option for a penicillin-allergic patient.

Be aware of the limitations of AI. Always check references and resources suggested by AI for existence and appropriateness. Use AI to find resources in addition to the standard reputable sources you already use. Never input sensitive information into AI.

Registered professionals remain responsible for the advice they provide and the decisions they make. The future may bring AI tools that have been validated for use in pharmacy or wider clinical settings, but currently, AI should not be used alone to answer any clinical queries.

Smoking Cessation Update

Final Reminder: Supply of Carbon Monoxide Monitors – Requires Action by Friday 1st August 2025

All community pharmacies were sent an email on Monday 21st July 2025 which requires urgent attention please.

NHS Grampian have agreed to supply carbon monoxide monitors (smokerlyzer) to any pharmacy who carry out the smoking cessation service and would like to use it as a tool to aid cessation as per the PGD.

If you already have a machine and it is over 5 years old, it will not be fit for purpose and you should dispose of it. We highly encourage using your local council recycling plants.

You will appreciate that these machines come at a high cost to NHS Public Health and therefore we want to ensure financial efficiency and avoid machines sitting unused (they only have a 3 year warranty).

Community pharmacies can have their machines sent to an NHS building such as their local GP surgery (but please ask first) or pick it up in person from Resources at Summerfield House in Aberdeen City.

Therefore, we will be ordering the machines on demand. We ask all pharmacies who would like a new CO machine to read and sign the attached.

If you'd like your machine in this initial order, we ask you to return your declaration to us by FRIDAY 1st AUGUST 2025

Smoking Cessation Data for Jan – March 2025

The table below shows the smoking data for the full financial year 2024-2025 including the most recent Jan-March 2025 figures.

- Signups have risen although are lower than the same time last year.
- Missed 4-week submissions remain high at a total financial loss of £3225 to pharmacies collectively.
- 12-week quits are up to 22%, now only 0.9 lower than the Scottish pharmacy average, keep it up Grampian!

Your Public Health Practitioner will get in touch with any pharmacy who has an unusual number of missed submissions over the coming weeks. We'll shout out the top performers in next week's newsletter!

| | APRIL – JUNE 2024 | JULY – SEPT 2024 | OCT – DEC 2024 | JAN - MAR 2025 |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| TOTAL NUMBER OF SIGN UPS | 945 | 833 | 739 | 1009 |
| MISSED SUBMISSIONS AT 4 WEEKS AND FINANCIAL LOSS | 175 (18%) | 191 (22.9%) | 176 (23.8%) | 215 (21.3%) |
| | £2625 | £2865 | £2640 | £3225 |
| TOTAL NUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL QUITs | 190 (20% of all sign ups) | 175 (21% of all sign ups) | 157 (21% of all sign ups) | 220 (22% of all sign ups) |

Public Health Update

Blood Borne Virus (BBV) Tests

It was World Hepatitis day yesterday, 28th July 2025. May we remind you that you can stock BBV self-test kits. *GOLD pharmacies*, this is a mandatory requirement. All the information required to carry out this test is clearly stated inside the kit.

To order them, email your request with your pharmacy details to: gram.bbvppostaltesting@nhs.scot.

Save the Date: Training Sessions

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| FAST Education, Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland | Various training sessions from 6 th August 2025 – 23 rd October 2025. | This training, run by Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland, is aiming to improve stroke recognition through improving understanding of the FAST tool. Please find the attached flyer for more information and training dates. To register: click here . |
| Naloxone Training for Community Pharmacy Staff | Wednesday 13 th August 2025, 7pm - 8.30pm on MS Teams. | To register, click here . |
| Grampian Diabetes MCN Professional Conference 2025 | Wednesday 17 th September 2025 at the Aberdeen Altens Hotel. | Please see the attached programme and workshop brochure for further details, including the link to register via Eventbrite. |
| Shaping the Future of Women's Health in Scotland 2025 | Tuesday 30 th September 2025, online or in person at Augustine United Church, Edinburgh. | To register, click here and choose your registration option (online or in-person). |

Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



28/07/2025 • 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.



25/07/2025 • Robbie Collins

Pharmacy Intervention Leads to Timely Lyme Disease Treatment

A community pharmacy consultation has played a vital role in the early detection and treatment of a suspected case of Lyme disease, thanks to the vigilance of an Independent Prescribing (IP) Pharmacist and the power of public health awareness.



24/07/2025 • Robbie Collins

Nic's Wee Wanderers Lace Up for Life-Saving Blood Bikes Scotland

Our very own Audit and Services Assistant Emma Ramage is fundraising with a group of her determined friends who are walking in support of **Blood Bikes Scotland** in honour of their friend, Nic.



24/07/2025 • NES

Call for Community Pharmacists to Support Foundation Training Year Development

Our colleagues at **NHS Education for Scotland (NES)** are seeking community pharmacist members to join the **Pharmacy Foundation Training Year (FTY) Development and Delivery Group**.

The Happy Place 😊

Scotland's Health Awards 2025

Do you know someone in NHS Grampian who goes above and beyond to care for others, support their team, or drive innovation in healthcare? Now is your chance to celebrate their dedication by nominating them for a Scotland's Health Award! Nominations close on 17th August 2025.

Let's recognise the everyday heroes making a difference in our communities. Submit your nomination today: www.scotlandshhealthawards.co.uk



*All weekly updates are uploaded to the [CP Grampian website](#).
Remember to like our Facebook page for regular updates: [Community Pharmacy Grampian – NHSG](#)*