

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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Shortage of Antimicrobial Agents Used in Tuberculosis (TB) Treatment (Update)

A National Patient Safety alert [NatPSA/2025/004/MVA](#) was issued on 29th July 2025 regarding intermittent shortages of antimicrobial agents used in the treatment of TB. As per NHS Grampian [Shortage Guidance](#), a Medicines Advisory Group (MAG) is leading on the organisation response to this shortage.

Due to the potential implications of this shortage an Expert Working Group (EWG) has been appointed and is due to meet on Thursday 7th August 2025.

For current patients receiving treatment for TB:

- It is important that there is no interruption to their treatment course, as this risks treatment failure and resistance.
- This is an intermittent supply issue, community pharmacies are encouraged to check wholesalers/order on a regular basis as availability is likely to fluctuate.
- Information regarding availability of unlicensed supplies is currently being collated and will be shared when finalised.
- Please contact the TB nursing team if you have urgent individual TB patient treatment queries and gram.medicinesmanagement@nhs.scot if you require information regarding current known unlicensed suppliers.

Further information will be shared following MAG/EWG meetings as appropriate.

GMED Prescription Emails

This is a reminder GMED will send you an **Agency Referral Email** prior to a paper prescription arriving at the Pharmacy. Please find an attached example PDF.

The email will include all patient details, medication prescribed details and clinician details. If you receive one of these emails, then a printed prescription will follow in the usual way. Please process/dispense as you normally would a scanned prescription from GMED.

If GMED have been able to validate the patients CHI then a barcoded prescription will arrive. We have asked the clinicians to type in the barcode into the notes of the referral in the hopes that you can just type the barcode into your PMR and dispense as you would any barcodes prescription. If no barcode is available then dispense manually. It may be that the CHI could not be validated.

For any queries regarding prescriptions/medication, pharmacies should continue to contact GMED Professional to Professional Advice Line: **01224 558802** as per the current process. The line is **operational Mon - Fri 1800-0800 and all weekend**.

If you have any issues with downloading the barcoded message, please contact your ePharmacy facilitators: gram.cpfacilitators@nhs.scot.

If you receive a prescription from GMED 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, along with a scanned copy of the agency referral you received. A member of the GMED team will chase this prescription, and ensure you receive it.

Submission of SLA Sign Up Sheet and Monthly Claims

Please be reminded 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 fees, so incorrect submissions will not be processed.

Optometry Prescribing – Information for Community Pharmacy Teams

Please find the attached letter on the new arrangements for community optometry prescribing under General Ophthalmic Services that may have an impact on community pharmacy. The new arrangements are expected to see an increase in the number of prescriptions written by independent prescriber community optometrists and presented for dispensing in community pharmacies.

Meningococcal B Vaccination for Protection against Gonorrhoea Infection

People at increased risk of catching gonorrhoea can now be offered the Meningococcal B vaccination for protection against infection. Sexual health clinics will offer the vaccine to gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) at highest risk of infection, those involved in selling or exchanging sex regardless of gender, and those who sexual health clinic professionals assess as being at a similar risk level.

The upcoming vaccination programme will complement existing interventions to reduce sexually transmitted infections (STI) transmission, preventing thousands of cases of gonorrhoea. [Click here](#) to find out more about the vaccine and eligibility.

Smoking Cessation

CO Monitors Update – **IMPORTANT!**

Thank you to those who have requested a monitor and sent their declaration form back to us. **The monitors will take around 4 weeks to be ready for delivery/collection.**

If you have requested a monitor and signed your declaration form, please drop Resources an email to let them know: **Do you wish to collect it or have it delivered?**

Please remember you can only have it delivered to an NHS building, usually your local GP surgery. Provide delivery address and alert your delivery destination that it will be arriving in due course.

Smoking Cessation Pharmacy Success!

In last week's newsletter, we copied you into the most recent smoking cessation data for Jan - March 2025, highlighting high missed submissions. Today, we're delighted to give shout-outs to some pharmacies who had great engagement, no missed submissions and a high success rate, well above the Scottish Pharmacy average of 22.9%! Well done everyone, fantastic work!

- Bairds King Street had 15 sign ups with a 53% success rate.
- Buckpool had 20 sign ups with a 50% success rate.
- Summerhill Pharmacy had a whopping 28 sign ups with a 43% success rate.
- Rowlands Byron Square had 14 sign ups with a 43% success rate.
- Largue Huntly had 12 sign ups with a 50% success rate.
- Strachans Banff had just 7 sign ups but with a 57% success rate.
- Davidsons Ballater only had 4 sign ups but a fantastic 75% success rate.

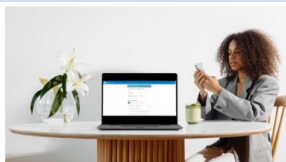
Save the Date: Training Sessions

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 .
NES Webinar: Asthma Management	Wednesday 10 th September 2025, 7pm – 8.30pm on MS Teams.	<p>This webinar is designed for pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy teams to explore the latest updates in asthma care as outlined in the BTS/NICE/SIGN guidelines.</p> <p>Led by members of the respiratory specialist interest group, this interactive event will enhance your confidence in treatment decisions, patient education, and referral pathways through practical, case-based learning.</p> <p>Book via Turas Learn here: Asthma Management webinar registration</p>

NES Pharmacy Update: August 2025

[Click here](#) to view the NES Pharmacy August update. This edition includes: NES Glasgow office move, Experiential Learning Stakeholder Engagement Series – Shaping the Future of Experiential Learning in Scotland, Community Pharmacy Workforce Survey, Exciting PhD opportunity for pharmacists in Scotland, Updated Resource: Adverse Drug Reactions, programmes and events.

Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



04/08/2025 • 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.



04/08/2025 • Graham Le Tissier

Prescription Collection Courier Service: 7th August 2025

Next prescription courier collection is 7th August 2025. Follow bagging guidelines and include GP34 forms.



01/08/2025 • Emma Ramage

August 2025 Part 7 Publishing

Please note: Due to ongoing discussions with PHS and the Scottish Government, the final round of Adjusted Prices for July 2025 is likely to be agreed and published no later than **Tuesday 5th August**.



01/08/2025 • Robbie Collins

Upcoming Community Pharmacy Workforce Survey - September 2025

In **September 2025**, NES Pharmacy, in partnership with **Community Pharmacy Scotland (CPS)**, will be coordinating the next **national community pharmacy workforce survey**.

The Happy Place 😊

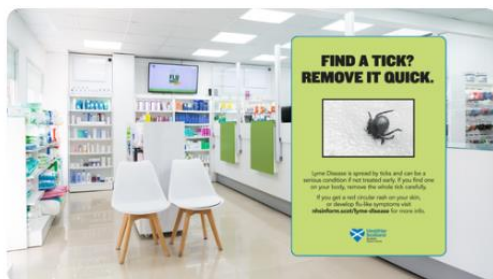
Pharmacy Intervention Leads to Timely Lyme Disease Treatment

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.

This case highlights the invaluable role of community pharmacy teams in early detection, patient education, and timely referral especially when supported by well-placed public health resources. It also reinforces the importance of continued investment in pharmacy-led health promotion campaigns.

👏 Huge well done to Philippa, the team, and Lyme Disease UK for their resources.

[Pharmacy Intervention Leads to Timely Lyme Disease Treatment | Community Pharmacy Scotland](#)



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](#)