

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



Contents

- | | |
|--|---|
| 01: Important Information from the GPhC on Emerging Issues | 07: Smoking Cessation: CO Monitors Update |
| 02: Primary Care Contracts Team Update: Action Required – Submission of Festive Opening Hours | 08: Public Health Update: Bairns Hoose |
| 03: Guidelines for Suspected Cancer | 09: Laura Karim, PhD – Exploring Implementation of Independent Prescribing Pharmacists into Community Pharmacy Practice |
| 04: Reminder: Naloxone Training for Community Pharmacy Staff | 10: Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up |
| 05: Save the Date: International Overdose Awareness Day | 11: The Happy Place ☺ |
| 06: Call for Cross Sector and Board-Wide Representatives for Neurology Specialist Interest Group | |

Important Information from the GPhC on Emerging Issues

Please [click here](#) to view important information from the GPhC on emerging issues.

Primary Care Contracts Team Update

ACTION REQUIRED: Submission of Festive Opening Hours

We are continuing to collate the opening hours for pharmacies during the public holidays over Christmas and New Year.

Please refer to the email sent by PCCT on 31st July for full details and use the below link to make your submission if not already done so.

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT FESTIVE OPENING HOURS.](#)

Guidelines for Suspected Cancer

Guidelines for Suspected Cancer following an extensive process that included evidence reviews provided by Cancer Research UK and Healthcare Improvement Scotland, as well as clinical input from over 210 primary and secondary care experts, the new Scottish Referral Guidelines for Suspected Cancer have been launched. They can be accessed on the Right Decision Service via www.cancerreferral.scot.nhs.uk or download 'Right Decisions: Health & Care' from your App store.

Reminder: Naloxone Training for Community Pharmacy Staff

The substance use pharmacy team are inviting all community pharmacy staff to an evening online update event on overdose awareness, naloxone and the role of community pharmacy, on **Wednesday 13th August 2025**. We strongly encourage all staff to register and attend the event. To register, [click here](#).

Save the Date: International Overdose Awareness Day

Each year, hundreds of thousands of people around the world are lost to overdoses. The impact on individual's friends and families can be devastating. Aberdeen is not immune to this. For too long, the overdose crisis has been hidden in the shadows.

International Overdose Awareness Day provides an opportunity for us to talk about and prevent overdose in our community. Knowing the real facts about drugs and what to do when you see someone experiencing an overdose saves lives. The integrated drug service are playing our part to support the day with a naloxone information and training session on **Friday 29th of August from 1pm – 3pm** at the

Timmermarket clinic. We hope that the session allows individuals to attend and explore how naloxone works and to be trained in it themselves.

We would appreciate if you can advertise the event to staff and members of the public as all welcome. We hope to see you at our event! Please do get in touch if you plan to attend so that we can gauge numbers.

For more information, please contact: hannah.gairns@nhs.scot.

Call for Cross Sector and Board-Wide Representatives for Neurology Specialist Interest Group

A Neurology Specialist Interest Group is being established, and we are seeking expressions of interest across Scotland for a Cross Sector, Board Wide Representatives to join the group. This is an exciting opportunity for a pharmacist or technician working in any sector of practice, including acute, primary care or community pharmacy - with an interest or a role in the care of people with neurological conditions. You will represent pharmacy colleagues across Scotland, sharing knowledge and expertise, contributing to national discussions, service developments and advancement of neurological care.

Neurological conditions are a priority for the following reasons:

- Neurology is the 3rd highest contributor to burden of disease.
- Public Health Scotland are predicting a 34% growth in disability adjusted life years for neurological conditions over the next 25 years.
- New advances in Migraine, Alzheimer's, MS, Epilepsy, Myasthenia Gravis and Parkinson's will offer new complex medication regimens with pharmacy ideally placed to advise patients on symptom and side effect management, offering shared decision making conversations and personalising medication regimens.
- Pharmacy can play a key role in neurological care pathways across all sectors. A great example is the recent migraine project with community pharmacy in partnership with The Migraine Trust and migraine clinicians.

The vision is to have Board-wide and cross sector pharmacy representation to ensure neurological patients receive the right care at the right place and time and optimise opportunities for pharmacy in pathway and service redesign. A neurology specialist interest group will be formally established and meet quarterly. A draft TOR is attached (adapted from the Respiratory SIG).

Expressions of interest to join the SIG are invited and should be sent to: arlene.coulson@nhs.scot.

Smoking Cessation Update

CO Monitors Update – IMPORTANT!

A reminder that those who have returned a declaration form should email resources to let them know if you can collect the monitor from Summerfield House or have it delivered to your nearest NHS building.

You should not contact Resources if you have not returned your signed declaration form.

Please can we ask that you all set up an account with Resources here: [HPAC](#).

This will ensure that, moving forward, you can order all the sundries with ease.

Please be reminded that the monitors will take 3-4 weeks to arrive.

Public Health Update

Bairns Hoose

We wish to draw your attention to a service who may signpost to pharmacy as part of a referral pathway. Bairns' Hoose is a Scottish initiative inspired by the Barnahus model in Iceland [About Barnahus – Barnahus Network](#). It aims to provide a more coordinated and trauma-informed approach to supporting child victims and witnesses of abuse and violence, ensuring they receive consistent and holistic support within a single setting.

Within NHS Grampian, all local authority areas have taken a multiagency approach on board and have received government funding with Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City being classed as Pathfinder sites.

Aberdeen City have a building “the hub” that can provide facilities for Interviewing children, providing medical examinations, and therapeutic work. Included in this is access or signposting to health services **including pharmacy**. For further information, please contact us by email - gram.cityhealthBH@nhs.scot

For further information please visit [Bairns' Hoose Aberdeen | Aberdeen City Council](#)

Aberdeenshire are operating a hub and spoke model and have a Hoose in Kemnay (“hub”), with the main spoke being in Peterhead, and smaller spokes across Aberdeenshire. For further information, please contact us by email - gram.aberdeenshirehealthBH@nhs.scot

Each area will have a Health Co-ordinator as a single point of contact, contactable at the email addresses above. This role will ensure that children and families are signposted to the most appropriate health service for them **which may be pharmacy**.

Laura Karim, PhD – Exploring Implementation of Independent Prescribing Pharmacists into Community Pharmacy Practice

Our very own Laura Karim is currently completing a PhD exploring the implementation of independent prescribing pharmacists into community pharmacy practice. Last week, she was delighted to have a 2nd paper published – this time in the International Journal of Pharmacy Practice. We are sure you will join us to congratulate Laura on the publication!

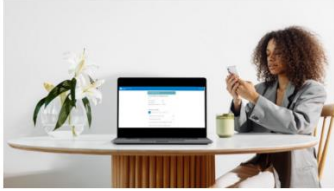
If you fancy having a read, you can find it following the below link:

[Scoping review of evidence of community pharmacist independent prescribing for common clinical conditions: beyond protocol prescribing | International Journal of Pharmacy Practice | Oxford Academic](#)

If you missed her first publication, in the International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy, you can find it here:

[Investigating practice integration of independent prescribing by community pharmacists using normalization process theory: a cross-sectional survey | International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy](#)

Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



11/08/2025 • 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.



07/08/2025 • Robbie Collins

Independent Prescribers: Useful Websites

In the past, Community Pharmacy Scotland (CPS) maintained a **Useful Websites** page tailored to the needs of **Independent Prescribers**, and we're now working to rebuild and refresh that page.



06/08/2025 • Robbie Collins

Courier Bag Allocations

We are currently working on your next allocation of courier bags.



05/08/2025 • Emma Ramage

Deletion from Part 7 as of 1st August 2025

The new updated version of Part 7 is now available for August 2025. In this month there is one deletion to Part 7 of the drug tariff we wanted to make you aware of.

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 this Sunday, 17th August 2025.

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



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](#)