

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](https://www.npsa.nhs.uk/alerts/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 met on Thursday 14th 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.

Procedure for the Administration of Medicines by Registered Healthcare Professionals Working Within NHS Grampian, Version 1

https://www.nhsgrampian.org/globalassets/services/medicines-management/pgds/procedure_adminmeds.pdf

The above linked document is for sharing and dissemination as appropriate. For clarity this procedure was previously within the Prescription and Administration Record Instructions document but has been transferred into a standalone procedure following roll out of HEPMA due to the various prescribing and administration systems in use across the organisation. This procedure is intended to be used when administering medicines regardless of the prescribing/administration recording system in place.

The link above is direct to the policy but the policy can be found on the [Medicines Management A-Z policies and guidance page](#).

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.](#)

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 a few weeks to be ready as they'll need to be NHS coded.

Public Health Update

Gold Pharmacies

Gold classes of 2024 and 2025, please remember to return your 6-month self-assessment criteria forms to your relevant Public Health Practitioner before the end of the month as per the email sent on 31st July 2025.

Save the Date: Training Sessions

FAST Education, Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Monday 25th August at 1pmThursday 11th September at 10amWednesday 24th September at 2pmTuesday 7th October at 10amThursday 23rd October at 12pm	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 on the 30 minute sessions. 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</p>

		<p>education, and referral pathways through practical, case-based learning.</p> <p>Book via Turas Learn here: Asthma Management webinar registration</p>
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Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



18/08/2025 • 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.



14/08/2025 • Adam Osprey

CPS Board Reviews Key Priorities August 2025

CPS Board is reviewing its 2026 election manifesto, joining a new PMR forum, and shaping the future of Pharmacy First. Updates to follow.



14/08/2025 • Gavin Speed

Prescription Courier Update: What's Changing

Royal Mail has made changes to how prescriptions are collected. Scanning now happens at the depot, not at pickup but your schedule stays the same.



14/08/2025 • Adam Osprey

Public Health Alert: Nitazenes

Public Health Scotland issues alert on Nitazenes, potent synthetic opioids linked to rising overdoses. Resources available for pharmacy teams and training.

The Happy Place 😊

Congratulations to Hilary on 25 Years with Charles Michies Pharmacy! Hilary has been a valued member of the team for 25 years, having spent many of those at the Portlethen branch. She now continues her fantastic work as a pharmacist with the Michie Group.

To celebrate this incredible milestone, the Union Street team recently marked the occasion with cake, flowers, and plenty of smiles. Thank you, Hilary, for your dedication and service!



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](#)