

# Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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## Reminder: Antivirals for Patients at High Risk of Complication from Covid-19

Please find attached a reminder of the letter regarding Antivirals for Patients at High Risk of Complication from Covid-19 shared previously on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025, following a recent increase of cases.

## National Patient Safety Alert (NPSA): TB Medicines

Following the release of a NPSA on 29th July a Pharmacy Medicines Shortages Group (PMSG) and Expert Working Group (EWG) were enacted to co-ordinate the NHS Grampian response to the NPSA.

The EWG have reviewed the NPSA and provided information on management of patients who may require impacted medicines for the duration of medicine supply issues.

For Community Pharmacy PMSG would like to highlight the following points:

- Where patients are unable to source medicines to continue treatment, contact should be made with the patients GP practice to advise of patient and when treatment is due to run out.
- Patients prescribed oral tablets should not be switched to liquid medication – these supplies must be conserved for paediatric populations only.

Treatment prioritisation is attached for your information.

## Reminder: NHS Grampian Community Pharmacy Feedback on Managing Missed Doses of Opioid Replacement Therapy

As part of the substance use level one SLA pharmacies are required to participate in quality improvement and audit activities. To help us gather feedback and identify potential areas of improvement we ask that all pharmacies who are signed up to the level one substance use SLA take the time to complete the below survey.

The survey only needs to be completed once on behalf of each pharmacy. It does not have to be completed by a pharmacist but must be completed by a staff member with sufficient training and understanding of the SLA and the process for responding to missed doses of opioid replacement therapy. It should be reflective of the wider teams' processes. There are some questions that may be best completed after discussion within teams.

Please [click here](#) to view the survey. We would be grateful if it can be **completed by Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025**.

## Primary Care Contracts Update

### PGD Emails

Please be reminded that all PGDs should be sent to the PCS team at:

[gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot). **Under no circumstances should they be sent to PCCT** or any other NHSG department. Failure to send these to the correct email address may result in PGDs not being picked up by PCS.

## Smoking Cessation Update

### PCR Errors

Please be reminded of the common errors which **may affect your payments**:

- **Opening another PCR file for a patient within a week** is the most common error we see in the data. (Although PCR will accept this, the National database will not recognise a patient with 2 entries within a week and you will not be paid for either).
- **Incorrect phone numbers.** Please do not put the pharmacy number in as the patient's number. If your patient does not have a phone number put UNKNOWN.

As always, we appreciate your cooperation with this.

### Varenicline Patient Information Leaflets

Patient guide leaflets around Varenicline are available in a number of languages now. These include, Polish, Urdu, Punjabi and Hindi. The digital leaflet in English is attached, it's not available from Resources or in paper format. Please alert your Public Health Practitioner if you'd like digital copies in any of the other languages.

### Vaping website and Resources

NHS Greater Glasgow have created a fantastic webpage with resources for adults looking to quit vaping. You are welcome to use and share these resources but please do remember to credit NHS GG&C. [Vaping Risks & Resources | Facebook | Linktree](#)

## Migraine Awareness Week – New Migraine Trust Research

Migraine Awareness Week began on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025. New research from The Migraine Trust found that people with migraine are not taken seriously both in their personal lives as well as the workplace. As a result, many are losing jobs, hiding their condition and facing being the brunt of jokes. Here's a [link](#), which highlights the key data from this research.

The Migraine Trust have also launched a new film highlighting the impact of migraine at work – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=19x0y14g8il>. Again this supports the #MigraineMeans theme.

Lastly, there are many ways people can get involved during the week, from sharing on social media, to contacting their MP or signing up to our Workplace Pledge. Here's a [link](#) about how to get involved.

## Training Opportunity: Realistic Medicine

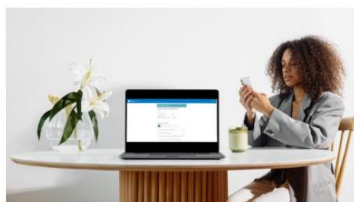
We would like to invite you drop in and hear about Realistic Medicine and the tools available to support ageing well. Realistic Medicine is an approach to health and social care putting the people we support at the centre of decisions made about their care. By creating a supported, personalised approach, we can provide care that people really value.

The Realistic Medicine team will share information about the Making every Opportunity Count approach and Ageing Well signposting tool which links people with the right services in their communities at the right time. As well as an introduction to Shared Decision Making and how the approach supports people to feel empowered to discuss their own treatment and care.

We will be running taster sessions throughout the day on Thursday 9th of October in training Room 1&2, Dunbarney House, Dr Grays Hospital, Elgin. The sessions will last approximately 1 hour.

[click this link](#) to book your space now. If this date isn't suitable for you, but you would still like to hear about Realistic Medicine and the tools available let us know and we can arrange additional sessions.

## Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



22/09/2025 • 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.



18/09/2025 • Gordon Winter

### Pharmacy First in Focus: Sharing Scotland's Success in Oslo

On the 7th and 8th of September, our Policy & Development Officer, **Gordon Winter** visited Oslo to deliver a lecture to their Chief Pharmacists as part of Norway's **Apoteker-dagen** or 'Pharmacists Day'.



11/09/2025 • Adam Osprey

### Research Participation Opportunity: "You Can Prescribe - Now What?"

We're inviting **employers** and **executive-level** stakeholders involved with **pharmacist independent prescribers (PIPs)** to complete a **short research questionnaire**.



11/09/2025 • Adam Osprey

### Opportunity to Join the Scottish Respiratory Group

The Scottish Respiratory Pharmacy Specialist Interest Group (SIG) is currently seeking a practising community pharmacist to join its membership.

## The Happy Place ☺

The team at Baird's Pharmacy, Clifton Road, wish to congratulate Ashleigh who recently hit a milestone of working at the pharmacy 15 years! Ashleigh went on to become an ACT and is now part of the management team. The Baird's team are so grateful for all Ashleigh's hard work!

*Please find Ashleigh pictured alongside Baird's dosette robot, Doris!*

***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](mailto: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](#)