

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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Molnupiravir Ordering – Antivirals for Patients at High Risk of Complication from Covid-19

Find attached a reminder of the letter regarding Antivirals for Patients at High Risk of Complication from Covid-19.

Please also find order details below to follow when placing an order for Molnupiravir from Alliance. **We encourage use of the PIP code, in replacement of searching the drug name.**

Alliance Healthcare Customer Services:

Email: customerservice@alliance-healthcare.co.uk

Tel: 0330 100 0448

PIP Code: 435-1706

EAN Code: 0191778023473

NHS List Price: £590.00

MHRA Drug Safety Update – Paracetamol in Pregnancy

Please [click here](#) to view the MHRA Drug Safety Update on Paracetamol in Pregnancy.

Patients should be reminded and reassured that there is no evidence that taking paracetamol during pregnancy causes autism in children. Paracetamol is recommended as the first-choice pain reliever for pregnant women, used at the lowest dose and for the shortest duration. It also acts as an antipyretic and is therefore used to treat fever.

NHS Grampian Asthma Management & Prescribing Guidance Update

Following an update to NHS Grampian Asthma Management & Prescribing Guidance (find attached) there has been a change to the preferred beclometasone/formoterol pMDI inhaler. The brand of choice is now Proxor® (previously Luforbec®).

What does this mean for community pharmacy - from this week you may start to see prescriptions for Proxor®. NHS Grampian is not proactively switching patients so this is not expected to be a rapid change over however community pharmacy should be alert to these changes.

Find below an excerpt from the Respiratory Management Clinical Network newsletter which provides some rationale behind the change:

The Respiratory MCN supports the use of the most cost-effective devices to deliver inhaled therapies. Due to an evolving market and ongoing financial pressures within NHS Grampian more frequent changes to preferred products will be required to try and reduce the overall costs of inhaler treatments. Any recommendations for changing to an alternative product would be assessed by the MCN Prescribing Subgroup and would ensure that the same or very similar medications are being given through a suitable device. We would welcome support with accepting these changes if and when they arise.

Tramadol MR Prescriptions

It has been brought to our attention that modified release tramadol is often prescribed generically, but there are a number of different brands on the market with different release formulations - some are 12hrly release and some are 24hr release. The intended release should be checked with the prescriber if it is not clear on the prescription, to ensure the correct formulation is supplied.

The BNF recommends: "Modified-release preparations are available as 12-hourly or 24-hourly formulations. Non-proprietary preparations of modified-release tramadol may be available as either 12-hourly or 24-hourly formulations; prescribers and dispensers must ensure that the correct formulation is prescribed and dispensed. Branded preparations that should be given 12-hourly include Brimisol® PR, Marol®, Maxitram® SR, Tilodol® SR, Tramquel® SR, Tramulief® SR, Zamadol® SR, and Zydol SR®. Preparations that should be given 24-hourly include Tradorec XL®, Zamadol® 24hr, and Zydol XL®."

NHS Grampian Illness/ Unused Medicines Campaign

Please find attached, and the below videos that are being run on Social Media. This campaign begins today, Tuesday 30th September 2025, for 2 weeks. There will be a two week break following this, and the campaign will then begin again for 2 weeks.

1 in 10 Medicines in Scotland go to Waste

1 in 10 medicines in Scotland go to waste, costing NHS Grampian millions every year. Learn more about how to help reduce your medicine waste visit [Unused Medicines](#).

Accompanying videos:

- <https://vimeo.com/1057814995/e42b1aa7de?share=copy>
- <https://youtu.be/znbtv2aZ-kk>

Over the Counter - Minor Illnesses

Did you know? When it comes to minor illnesses self-care and purchasing medicines saves your NHS money. For minor illnesses please visit www.nhsinform.scot or speak to your community pharmacist for advice. Accompanying video attached [here](#).

We encourage all community pharmacies to share on your own social media and webpages.

Closure of TRAVAX and Fit for Travel Websites

Public Health Scotland closed both the TRAVAX and Fit for Travel websites on 22nd September 2025.

As part of this process:

- **All active TRAVAX subscriptions will be refunded in full.** Refunds will be processed automatically, and confirmation will be sent once complete.
- The Fit for Travel website will no longer be accessible after this date.

We recognise that these resources have been widely used and highly valued by travel health professionals for many years. To support continuity of practice, we encourage you to access [Travel Health Pro](#), which provides comprehensive, evidence-based travel health guidance, vaccine recommendations, country information, and clinical updates.

Travel health advice for professionals is now available from Travel Health Pro, which provides comprehensive, evidence-based travel health guidance, vaccine recommendations, country information, and clinical updates. Further information specific to Yellow Fever will follow in due course.

A social media campaign will advise Members of the public of the change and direct the public to visit the [NHS inform – Travel health and vaccinations page](#), which includes links to local travel health clinics and [TravelHealthPro](#) for further information.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and engagement with TRAVAX and Fit for Travel. Your role in safeguarding the health of travellers is vital, and we are confident that Travel Health Pro will meet your professional needs going forward.

If you have any questions regarding your subscription or the closure of these services, please contact: phs.vaccination@phs.scot.

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.

We would be grateful if you could please [click here](#) to complete the survey **as soon as possible**, if you have not already done so.

Public Health Update

Stoptober Campaign

We encourage you all to push your smoking cessation services during Stoptober which runs throughout the whole month of October. Please ensure that you are advertising smoking services at all times.

All resources for the UK Government campaign are here: [Stoptober 2025 | Campaigns | Campaign Resource Centre](#)

Lots of smoking materials available here: [HPAC](#)

GOLD pharmacies, you have all been emailed today asking you to please utilise MEOC techniques to opportunistically identify smokers keen to stop and step up your promotion, we'd love to see any displays.

Scottish Pain Pharmacy Network (SPPN) Newsletter – August 2025

Please find attached the August 2025 Scottish Pain Pharmacy Network (SPPN) newsletter, also available to view [here](#).

MedWatch Newsletter – September 2025

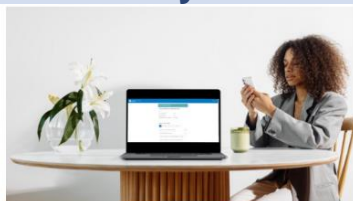
Please find attached the September 2025 MedWatch newsletter.

Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



Prescription Collection Courier Service: 2nd October 2025

Next prescription courier collection is 2nd October 2025. Follow bagging guidelines and include GP34 forms.



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.



Sexual Assault Response Coordination Services (SARCS) Campaign Launch

SARCS offers 24/7 NHS support after rape or sexual assault. Learn how to access care and share the campaign.



Supporting the Wellbeing of Our Pharmacy Family

Pharmacist Support offers free, confidential wellbeing services for pharmacy teams. Learn how to access counselling, advice, and more.

The Happy Place ☺

World Pharmacist Day is celebrated on 25th September all over the world. This is organised by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) to say thanks to pharmacists for their hard work. The theme for this year was "Think Health, Think Pharmacist," which shows that pharmacists are not just about giving medicines, but they also take care of our health.

We want to extend our thanks and celebrate ALL our wonderful Pharmacists in Grampian, you do a fantastic job under challenging times and your work is very much noticed and appreciated! 🌞



More information about the history of the day here - <https://www.fip.org/world-pharmacists-day>

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