

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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Smoking Cessation Update

Project SIMD

According to ASH Scotland, there is a smoking prevalence of 25% in the most deprived areas (SIMD1) compared to 7% in the least deprived areas (SIMD 5).

In line with the Scottish Government initiative to improve quits in these groups, we aim to increase smoking cessation support in pharmacies who sit in SIMD 1 and 2 areas, under an assumption that most patients will visit their local pharmacy and therefore will live in the same SIMD area.

34 pharmacies in Grampian (26%) sit in SIMD 1 and 2 areas. (18 in Moray and North and 16 in Aberdeen City and South Aberdeenshire). If your pharmacy sits in these areas, you will receive an email from your Public Health Practitioner to set up an appointment early in 2026 to look at ways you can improve services and increase successful quits. Please respond to the email in a timely manner.

You can find out if your pharmacy is in an area of deprivation using the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) tool here: [Find out if an area is deprived | National Services Scotland](#)

Gold Pharmacies Validation for 2026/27

As we approach the end of the year, GOLD classes of 2024, 2025 and pending class of 2026, you have all been sent an email initiating a meeting in the New Year to go over the criteria and complete final sign-off. We advise you go through the criteria as a team to ensure you are achieving everything to a high standard before the meeting. Remember this is a team award and everyone should be competent with the MEOC ethos, delivering VBA and using the referral pathway. Any staff member may be questioned about their role in achieving the GOLD award.

If you are successful, we'll present your certificate and badges and take your photo for our own socials (with your permission). If you are not successful, we will offer some actions and return to review your status at a later arranged date.

NES Pharmacy Update: December 2025

[Click here](#) to view the December NES Pharmacy Update. This edition includes: new NES pharmacy appointments, national pharmacy workforce forum page on Turas Learn, NES Annual Conference, research fellowship opportunities for pharmacy teams, updated resources, webinar recordings and programmes.

Save the Date: Training Sessions

Aberdeenshire ADP Drug Trends & Harm Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday 16th December 2025, 9:30am to 12:30pm - click here to register. Tuesday 20th January 2025 – click here to register. 	This session provides trainees with essential drug knowledge to enhance their understanding of harm reduction and will take place on MS Teams.
Aberdeenshire ADP Emerging Trends Training	Tuesday 16 th December 2025, 6pm – 8pm.	This session will include similar content to what is covered in our Drug Trends & Harm Reduction session. If you have already participated in that course, there is no need to take this one. Click here to register.
BBV Education and Information Day	Tuesday 24 th February 2026 at The Golden Jubilee, Clydebank.	<p>This event will include topics across blood borne viruses (BBVs) including hepatitis C, hepatitis B and HIV. This is an opportunity to focus on the role of stakeholders in delivering the interventions required to achieve HIV transmission elimination and the elimination of hepatitis C and to address the risk of hepatitis B across Scotland.</p> <p>Registration will close at 5pm on 23rd December 2025. Click here to register.</p>

Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



04/12/2025 • Adam Osprey

Pharmacy First Changes: Questions and Answers (FAQs)

We have put together the following Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for the circularPCA P(2025)24.



04/12/2025 • Scottish Government

NHS 24 Winter Campaign: Powered by People

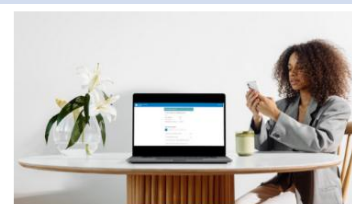
Support NHS 24's 'Powered by People' campaign this winter. Share resources promoting digital health services as the first point of care.



01/12/2025 • Emma Ramage

Part 7 Drug Tariff Updates: December 2025

Four new items added to Part 7 of the drug tariff for December 2025. Check the latest updates and contact CPS for more information.



01/12/2025 • 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.

The Happy Place 😊



Congratulations to Emily from Buchanhaven who has successfully passed her accuracy checking for pharmacy technicians (ACT) course! Very well done Emily! (Pictured Left)

Also Congratulations to Lori from Crimond on 5 years of service. Her colleagues say "Lori has achieved her Accuracy Checking Technician qualification and, earlier last year, stepped into the role of Pharmacy Manager, where she has truly excelled. Her dedication, professionalism and calm, supportive leadership make a real difference every single day — for both our team and our patients." (Lori Pictured Right)



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](#)