

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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As this week marks our 300th issue of the weekly community pharmacy update, we wish to thank you for taking time each week to read and sharing with pharmacy colleagues and highlight the importance of community pharmacy awareness of the articles shared. To improve awareness further, we recently introduced a monthly round-up which we hope you are finding helpful. If you or your teams have any feedback about our newsletters, please do get in touch- we are also happy to hear from you.

Pharmacy First Plus Revised MOU and Ad Hoc Offer

Please find the attached correspondence in relation to the Pharmacy First Plus service and recent circular published on 31st October 2025.

Please note the two actions below:

- **ACTION:** Due to amendments as detailed within the above circular and to our NHS Grampian Pharmacy First memorandum of understanding (MOU) (attached), all Independent Prescribers (PIP) must return an updated and signed copy of the MOU to gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot
- **ACTION:** If you have a pharmacy that fits the criteria of ad hoc offer of PFP. A separate MOU (Attached) must be complete and returned by each PIP to gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot

We do recognise that PIPs may not have the individual City, Shire or Moray prescription pads already and it will take time for them to be ordered and arrive. Therefore in consideration of this, prescribing may continue over the busy winter period until we receive updated paperwork. We are allowing PIPs until the end of February 2026 to comply with this requirement.

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.

MedWatch Newsletter: December 2025

Please find attached the December 2025 newsletter. This edition includes:

- NatPSA Alert: Harm from incorrect recording of a penicillin allergy as penicillamine
- Shared Learning: Rivaroxaban
- #MedSafetyWeek 3rd - 9th November 2025
- New [Toolbox Talk: Time Critical Medicines](#)
- Updated Guidelines/Policies

Save the Date: Training Sessions

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.	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. <i>Registration will close at 5pm on 23rd December 2025. Click here to register.</i>

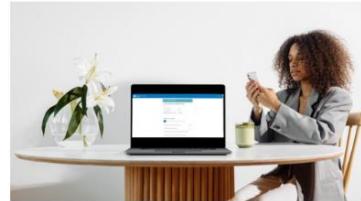
Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



15/12/2025 • Milo Mercies

Prescription Collection Courier Service: 16th December 2025

Your next courier collection is scheduled for Tuesday, December 16th, 2025. We have produced the following guidelines for your prescription bag submissions.



15/12/2025 • 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.



11/12/2025 • Community Pharmacy Scotland

Research Project - Strathclyde University

Our colleagues at Strathclyde University are undertaking the following research project



11/12/2025 • Amanda Rae

Community Pharmacy Employee Pharmacists Still to Undertake IP Training Dec - 2025

We are currently reviewing future budgets and training capacity requirements for **CPS/NES Funded Employee CP/PIP Training**. To do this, we need a clear picture of how many CP employees in the network have not yet completed their training.

The Happy Place ☺

Thursday 11th December 2025 marked Christmas Jumper Day 2025. We absolutely loved this very festive photo of all the fabulous staff at Dickies Pharmacy Kingswells, great effort!



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](#)