

# Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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## Supply of Suboxone and Subutex

As also distributed by email on 30<sup>th</sup> December, notification has been received from AAH that the supply of Suboxone and Subutex will cease in the UK from 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 respectively. This will mean that all patients going forward when stocks are exhausted will have to be transferred onto Generic Buprenorphine.

Please can you check that you have sufficient stock supplies to cover all current suboxone/subutex prescriptions. If you do not have enough stock to complete existing Rx for suboxone or subutex please contact specialist services/prescribers as soon as possible, so they can arrange for Rx of generic buprenorphine instead.

If your pharmacy is carrying a larger stock of suboxone/subutex, please notify patient's prescribers so that they can co-ordinate using up your existing stock as far as possible.

[Guidance For The Use Of Oral Buprenorphine Products For The Treatment Of Opioid Dependence In Grampian](#)

For any additional advice please contact: [gram.smspharmacists@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.smspharmacists@nhs.scot).

## SMA Infant Formula and Follow-on Formula Product Recall

Please find the attached recall notice for certain batch numbers of Nestle SMA products. All other Nestle products and other batches of the same product that are not in the scope of this voluntary recall are safe to consume.

## Dioralyte vs Dioralyte Relief

Please note that these products are not interchangeable as they contain different excipients.

Dioralyte can be used off-label for a number of indications and can be administered via routes other than orally. Dioralyte relief contains a rice element which is not suitable when the product is not taken orally.

## GPhC Emerging Issues

Please [click here](#) to view important information issued from the GPhC on the below emerging issues:

- Dispensing and supplying methotrexate
- Interactions, Contraindications and Counselling
- Supplying other higher risk medicines
- Antibiotic stewardship with fluoroquinolones and Yellow Card reporting of side effects
- Utilising IT systems to support safe prescribing and dispensing

## Reporting of Pharmacy Closures

Due to an increased number of pharmacy closures due to staffing or recent weather conditions, please be reminded of the following requirements:

The attached closure report must be completed and submitted to [gram.pcctpharmacy@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.pcctpharmacy@nhs.scot) - please ensure your email contains the completed report attachment.

When a closure report is submitted after 5pm weekdays or anytime during a weekend, you must also inform GMEDS and copy them into your email: [gram.gmedurgent@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.gmedurgent@nhs.scot).

The closure report must always specify the times of closures (avoid stating AM, PM, or "rest of day").

You must inform your surrounding buddy pharmacies and GP Practices at all times.

All closures are recorded and maintained by Primary Care Contracts, this can be viewed here - [Primary Care Contracts – NHS Grampian](#)

Please review the attached documents as a reminder of the above requirements.

## REMINDER FOR ACTION: Pharmacy First Plus Revised MOU and Ad Hoc Offer

Please find attached a reminder of the attached correspondence in relation to the Pharmacy First Plus service and recent circular published on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025.

Listed below are outstanding required actions if you are an independent prescriber in NHS Grampian, and have not yet actioned these:

- **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](mailto: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](mailto:gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot),

**We are allowing PIPs until the end of February 2026 to comply with this requirement.**

## Supervision Changes: Bagged and Checked Medication

UK pharmacy legislation has been updated, introducing changes to supervision and RP/SP roles. Key dates: **7<sup>th</sup> January 2026** for authorising prescription handouts during absence, and **10<sup>th</sup> December 2026** for full implementation. Guidance from RPS coming soon. [Supervision changes: Bagged & Checked Medication | Community Pharmacy Scotland](#).

## NHS Pharmacy First Scotland: Approved List Update V39

Please find attached the latest version of the NHS PFS Approved List, which is also available to view [here](#).

### Smoking Cessation Update

#### PCR Errors – How to Avoid Records Not Being Uploaded for Payment

Every Thursday the National Smoking Cessation Database receives an upload from the records on PCR and there are data validation rules set up within the database to ensure what enters it is accurate. These rules result in some records being rejected by the system which then sends an error message to the local smoking cessation team. From here the error may be able to be fixed within the database by the smoking cessation team or by the originating pharmacy on PCR but it can often be time consuming and can cause double counts of records.

The National Smoking Cessation team takes an extract from the database every month that goes to pharmacy payments for processing. If an error happens with a record then it will be rejected by the database and a payment will not be made.

We have pointed out common errors over the months and have now compiled them into the attached short, easy to read PDF document. We suggest you print it out and keep it near your PCR database. As always, remember to ensure you check the “reports function” a couple of times a week to avoid missing submissions.

### Issues Accessing TURAS Modules

We are now in the process of arranging Care Portal log-in accounts for Independent Prescribers who have already undertaken the required training.

We are aware of some issues with accessing training modules as they do not appear for some users. If you are experiencing issues with accessing some of the Turas modules.

Please try the following:

#### Change Profile Settings/Role

1. When logged into TURAS right click on your profile icon at the top right of the page.
2. When within your profile settings scroll to the bottom of the page until you reach “Role Details” and “Professional Registration”
3. Change this to be a “Pharmacist” and input your GPHC number
4. Try to log in again and hopefully will appear.

If you have tried the above and still does not work for you please contact [contact.digital@nes.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:contact.digital@nes.scot.nhs.uk) and the team will check your profile settings.

What is Care Portal? See our [website here](#) for more information.

# Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



05/01/2026 • 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.



25/12/2025 • Graham Le Tissier

## Festive Holiday Opening Times

For New Year the office will be **closed on 1st and 2nd January 2026** with normal office hours resuming on Monday, 5th January 2026.



23/12/2025 • Graham Le Tissier

## Prescription Collection Courier Service: 8th January 2026

Your next courier collection is scheduled for Thursday, 8th January 2026. We have produced the following guidelines for your prescription bag submissions.



23/12/2025 • Scottish Government

## PCA(P)(2025)29 - Serious Shortage Protocol: Latanoprost Eye Drops SSP 086

SSP 086 for Latanoprost/Timolol eye drops is active 19 Dec 2025–6 Feb 2026. Guidance for pharmacists on substitution and patient care.

## The Happy Place ☺

This week, we wish to give a huge shout out to all pharmacy teams across NHS Grampian. We thank you all for going the extra mile to serve your patients and communities during these adverse and challenging weather conditions!

If closure is unavoidable, please be reminded that a closure report form must be completed and sent to PCCT, this was emailed to you all on 5<sup>th</sup> January. Many thanks!



***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](#)*