

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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Co-codamol 30mg/500mg Shortage

Further to the MSAN released relating to this shortage please find attached information from Pharmacy Medicine Shortages group. This will be disseminated to all sectors for awareness of the ongoing shortage.

Fraudulent Prescriptions

The NHS Grampian Controlled Drugs Team have been alerted to a number of fraudulent private prescriptions being presented at community pharmacies purporting to be from The Mayo Clinic. To date, all the prescriptions have been for codeine linctus.

We have not received any reports of such prescriptions being presented in Grampian but are sharing for awareness.

The fraudulent prescriptions are hand-written, presented on headed Mayo Clinic paper and bear a Mayo Clinic stamp but are not in the same format as a genuine Mayo Clinic prescription.

I have attached a sample of a genuine Mayo Clinic prescription for your reference and an example of a fraudulent prescription seized. Please remain vigilant for suspected fraudulent private prescriptions for medicines with abuse potential.

Steps should be undertaken to confirm that private prescribers are appropriately registered and consider contacting the issuing practice directly to confirm that the prescription is genuine. Be aware that contact details on a fraudulent prescription, including telephone numbers, may also be false so should be verified independently using reliable sources.

Antivirals for Patients at High Risk of Complications from COVID-19

Some community pharmacies across Grampian have been asked to hold stock of antiviral medications (Paxlovid and Molnupiravir). This arrangement has been established to ensure timely access for patients and to support prompt initiation of treatment where needed. Pharmacies have been selected based on reasonable geographical coverage and with consideration given to minimising waste.

If your community pharmacy is not part of this stock-holding network, please note that this arrangement is not exclusive. Should you receive a CoPPr prescription, the request should still be managed promptly and an order should be placed with your wholesaler without delay. As there is a five-day window for treatment initiation, your cooperation in ensuring timely supply is essential.

Supplies of antiviral medicines remain fully covered under the national contractual framework.

Review of MPharm Experiential Learning in Scotland

As part of the national review of EL in Scotland for 2027 and beyond, the EL Stakeholder Steering Group invite all EL providers and facilitators to complete the questionnaire linked below.

The questionnaire builds upon the quality improvement and innovation research highlighted during the Phase 1 webinar series and is aligned with the transitional EL initiatives planned for 2025–2027. Data collected will inform the development of options for a sustainable future model, to support decision making at the final Phase 3 event set to take place in early March 2026.

Completion of the questionnaire should take approximately 15 minutes. To take part or find out more, either refer to the attached flyer or [click here](#).

Smoking Cessation Update

Smoking cessation data for Quarter 2 - July to September 2025

The data table below shows the most recent sign ups, missed 4 week submissions and successful 12 week quits for all pharmacies collectively in Grampian. It also shows the previous quarters for comparison.

In summary:

- Signups are lower than this time last year.
- Missed submissions at 4 weeks are at an all-time high with 27% not being submitted, losing payment.
- Successful 12 week quits are the lowest they have been for some time at 19.5%. The National Scottish pharmacy average is 22.9%.

	JULY-SEPT 2024	OCT-DEC 2024	JAN- MAR 2025	APRIL-JUNE 2025	JULY-SEPT 2025
TOTAL NUMBER OF SIGN UPS	833	739	1009	835	822
MISSED SUBMISSIONS AT 4 WEEKS AND FINANCIAL LOSS	191 (22.9%)	176 (23.8%)	215 (21.3%)	210 (25%)	226 (27%)
	£2865	£2640	£3225	£3150	£3390
TOTAL NUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL QUITs	175 (21% of all sign ups)	157 (21% of all sign ups)	220 (22% of all sign ups)	182 (21.7%)	161 (19.5%)

Your Public Health Practitioner will be in touch via email over the next few weeks with your own pharmacy's data, this may be followed up with a visit.

Please review your PCR house-keeping and ensure submissions are made on time to ensure accurate data and being paid accordingly.

Although disappointing as a whole, there have been small pockets of great work which we will highlight next week.

Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



23/01/2026 • Robbie Collins

Experimental Learning (EL) Review for 2027: Stakeholder Questionnaire

Our colleagues at the EL Stakeholder Steering Group have asked us to share the following stakeholder engagement questionnaire.



22/01/2026 • Robbie Collins

Looking Forward - Community Pharmacy Scotland in 2026 with Matt Barclay

CPS Chief Executive Matt Barclay shares what 2026 looks like for Community Pharmacy Scotland and what we will be focusing on over the year ahead.



22/01/2026 • Scottish Government

PCA(P)(2026)02 - Withdrawal of the Serious Shortage Protocols for Adipine XL

SSP withdrawal for Adipine® XL modified-release tablets, and Fixapost® preservative-free eye drops, originally due to expire on 6 February 2026, will now be withdrawn early.



22/01/2026 • Gill Paterson

Gluten Free Food Service - Feedback Request

We are seeking feedback from community pharmacy teams on the Gluten Free Food Service.

The Happy Place 😊

This week we are delighted to give a shout out to Charles Michie Portlethen, following positive feedback from a Smoking Cessation patient. Well done!

"I couldn't ask for more, absolutely delighted to be stopped, thank you very much for your support at every step, not always easy but we got there."

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](#)