

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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GPhC Important Guidance on Pharmacy Change of Ownership Requirements

The General Pharmaceutical Council have heard directly from pharmacy owners and superintendent pharmacists that they are not always aware of the legal requirement to notify the GPhC within 28 days of a pharmacy's change of ownership, by submitting a change of ownership notification form. If this does not happen within 28 days, GPhC have to remove the pharmacy from the register, which means the pharmacy would have to close until it has been restored onto the register.

GPhC have written to pharmacy owners and superintendent pharmacists to remind them of this requirement. Please find the following key messages:

What to do when pharmacy ownership changes:

- **Notify the GPhC within 28 days:** When the ownership of a pharmacy changes, the new owner must legally notify the GPhC within 28 days by submitting a change of ownership notification form.
- **Submit the form only once the sale is fully completed:** The notification form must be fully completed and signed by both the previous owner and the new owner, and the relevant fee must be paid before it can be processed.
- **If this is your first pharmacy, nominate a superintendent pharmacist:** If the new owner organisation is an NHS Trust, body corporate, or limited liability partnership that does not currently own any other pharmacies, you will also need to nominate a superintendent pharmacist as part of the notification process.
- If the GPhC do not receive the fully completed form within the 28-day timeframe, the pharmacy will be removed from the register. This means the pharmacy must close immediately and the owner will need to apply for restoration and pay the associated restoration fee before the pharmacy can reopen.
- For further information and to access the change of ownership form, please visit [the Change of ownership page](#).

Items of Low and Limited Clinical Value – FAO Pharmacist Independent Prescribers (PIPs) Offering NHS Scotland Pharmacy First Plus Service

From prescribing data, it is evident that some prescribers have prescribed medications that would be considered of low or limited clinical value. NHS Grampian medicines management team have been looking at the prescribing of such medications across the board. Can all PIPs who offer the PFP service please familiarise yourselves with the following resource:

[Items of Low and Limited Clinical Value - Medicines - achieving value and sustainability in prescribing: guidance - gov.scot](#)

This resource serves to promote the most effective use of medicines and minimise low value prescribing.

Smoking Cessation Update

ASH Scotland New Youth Smoking and Vaping Resources

ASH Scotland have released some new resources aimed at young people. You may find these resources useful, not only for patients, but for your own families.

Find the link to the resource page here - [Working with young people - ASH Scotland](#)

Public Health Update

Government Initiated Poster Campaign Update

You should all be in the process of receiving your new Rethink Dementia posters, please replace the Mind to Mind poster with this one before 24th February.

The campaign encourages people to 'Rethink Dementia' as **evidence shows social contact can help alleviate some symptoms commonly associated with dementia and help people stay well for longer**. By maintaining contact with friends or loved ones living with a dementia diagnosis and doing the things we've always done with them, we can all make a difference.

Research Participation Opportunity: “You Can Prescribe – Now What?”

FAO newly qualified pharmacist independent prescriber (PIPs) - this short questionnaire invites you to share your experiences, challenges, and ideas for future support and development in your prescribing role. Your insights will help shape how new PIPs can be supported. The questionnaire can be found [here](#).

🕒 Time commitment: ~10 minutes

🎯 Purpose: Influence future support pathways and contribute to service development.

✓ Bonus: Participation can be used as evidence in your professional portfolio, including: RPS Post-Registration Foundation Curriculum – Outcome 5.1 and RPS Core Advanced Curriculum – Outcome 5.4

Your voice matters — help shape the future of prescribing practice.

If you need any more information please contact: josh.miller@nhs.scot or anne.boyter@stath.ac.uk.

Save the Date: Training Sessions

Trauma-Informed Approaches for Community Pharmacy Teams	Wednesday 18 th February 2026, 6:45pm–8:15pm at Dunbarney House, Dr Grays, Elgin, IV30 1SN.	This course is ideal for community pharmacists and pharmacy teams wishing to enhance compassionate practice and ensure a safe, supportive and trauma aware environment for everyone. Please click here to register, and view more details. Flyer with QR code also attached.
FAST Education Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wednesday 18th February 2026, 3pm.Friday 6th March 2026, 10am.	Please find the attached flyer to register for Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland's FAST Education 30-minute online sessions, which aim to improve stroke recognition.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday 18th March 2026, 1pm. 	
Aberdeenshire ADP - Emerging Trends Training	Tuesday 17 th February 2026, 6:30pm - 8:30pm	Please click here to register, and view more details.
Trauma-Informed Approaches for Community Pharmacy Teams	Wednesday 25 th February 2026, 6:45pm–8:15pm at Dunbarney House, Dr Grays, Elgin, IV30 1SN.	This course is ideal for community pharmacists and pharmacy teams wishing to enhance compassionate practice and ensure a safe, supportive and trauma aware environment for everyone. Please click here to register, and view more details. Flyer with QR code also attached.
Aberdeenshire ADP - Drug Trends & Harm Reduction	Thursday 26 th February 2026, 10:30am - 1:30pm	Please click here to register, and view more details.
Aberdeenshire ADP - Drug Trends & Harm Reduction	Tuesday 3 rd March 2026, 10:30am - 1:30pm	Please click here to register, and view more details.
Aberdeenshire ADP & Moray ADP - Cannabis put bluntly	Thursday 5 th March 2026, 10:00am - 12:00pm	Please click here to register, and view more details.

Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



12/02/2026 • Adam Osprey

CPS Board Update: February Top Three Topics

The following are the Top Three items currently under discussion and review by your CPS Board. There is no specific detail, yet, as these are currently "works in progress". Further detail will follow as available.



12/02/2026 • NES

New Teach & Treat Hub in Lanarkshire

North Road Pharmacy Bellshill has joined the Teach and Treat Hub locations, offering an additional opportunity for newly qualified Community Pharmacy Prescribing Pharmacists to complete their learning NES pathway and build confidence as independent prescribing practitioners.



12/02/2026 • NES

Teach and Treat Session Community Pharmacy Independent Prescribers

All CPS/NES Funded Employee CPIPs, have a **half day session at a Teach and Treat Hub included**. This session can be booked once you have completed your qualification and the 4 Clinical Training days.



11/02/2026 • NES

NES Foundation Training Year (FTY) Recruitment for the 2027/28 Training Year

OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE NOW!

The Happy Place 😊

GOLD Awards

Congratulations go to Dickies Dyce who have become a GOLD pharmacy! Led by pharmacist Vivian and PH Champions Natalie and Nora, they have put many new initiatives in place, well done team!

Chronic Pain Community Appointment Day

Laura Karim, Craig Marr (PMD), and Kelly Esson (Burghmuir Pharmacy) attended the *Community Appointment Day – Chronic Pain* event today at the Bon Accord Vaccination Centre.

The Chronic Pain CAD offers people the opportunity to receive support while they are on a waiting list to be seen. The team had many meaningful conversations with patients about their pain, self-management strategies, and ways to improve daily living.

Patients shared excellent feedback about their local community pharmacies. Thank you for the continued hard work and dedication.



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](#)