

# Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



## Contents

01: FreeStyle Libre 3 Sensor to FreeStyle Libre 3 Plus Sensor

02: Controlled Drugs Team Update: Improved Practice of Misbalances

03: Smoking Cessation Update: No Smoking Day

04: Pharmacy First Plus Simulation Training

05: Level 4 Enhanced Practice Programme For Pharmacy Technicians

06: NHS Grampian Locum Distribution List

07: NES Pharmacy Update: March 2026

08: Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up

09: The Happy Place 😊

## FreeStyle Libre 3 Sensor to FreeStyle Libre 3 Plus Sensor

Abbott are discontinuing their FreeStyle Libre® 3 sensor, with no further stocks being issued to community pharmacy from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. In the coming weeks, all patients will have prescribing changed to FreeStyle Libre® 3 Plus sensors.

This change impacts around 120 patients across NHS Grampian. Pharmacotherapy teams will be proactively switching patients prescribing to FreeStyle Libre® 3 Plus in the coming weeks.

Community pharmacies are asked to be alert to this change in prescribing, and for patients who have had their prescribing updated to counsel patients on the following two points:

- All stocks of FreeStyle Libre® 3 sensors are used up before they start using their new sensors.
- Their new 3 Plus sensors should be worn for 15 days (versus 14 days). It is important that sensors are worn for 15 days as per directions.

Please find attached the patient information leaflet. The patient information webpage is available [here](#), should this be of benefit when counselling patients.

## GMED Prescription Emails

This is a reminder GMED will send you an **Agency Referral Email** prior to a paper prescription arriving at the Pharmacy. Please find an attached example PDF.

The email will include all patient details, medication prescribed details and clinician details. If you receive one of these emails, then a printed prescription will follow in the usual way. Please process/dispense as you normally would a scanned prescription from GMED.

If GMED have been able to validate the patients CHI then a barcoded prescription will arrive. We have asked the clinicians to type in the barcode into the notes of the referral in the hopes that you can just type the barcode into your PMR and dispense as you would any barcodes prescription. If no barcode is available then dispense manually. It may be that the CHI could not be validated.

For any queries regarding prescriptions/medication, pharmacies should continue to contact GMED Professional to Professional Advice Line: **01224 558002** as per the current process. The line is **operational Mon - Fri 1800-0800 and all weekend**.

If you have any issues with downloading the barcoded message, please contact your ePharmacy facilitators: [gram.cpfacilitators@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.cpfacilitators@nhs.scot).

If you receive a prescription from GMED via the agency referral process, and have not received the original prescription within **one week**, you should send an email to: [gram.gmedurgent@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.gmedurgent@nhs.scot), along with a scanned copy of the agency referral you received. A member of the GMED team will chase this prescription, and ensure you receive it.

### Controlled Drugs Team Update

The Controlled Drugs Team often get reports of stock controlled drugs (CD) medicine misbalances; this message shares an opportunity for improved practice.

**Problem:** Where a number of tablets or vials cannot be accounted for, and investigations cannot find a cause, community pharmacy staff often suggest that the missing medicines have been accidentally discarded with, what is presumed to be, empty packaging.

**Why it is important:** Misbalances take valuable time to investigate at pharmacy level, take CD Team time to oversee and undermine controls to manage CDs

**What can we do better?** To reduce this type of incident CD Team advises all pharmacies to ensure that all controlled drug medication packets are torn up before being placed in the bin, and the patient information leaflet is checked carefully to confirm that no medication is concealed within it.

We always welcome examples of good practice from sites to support continuous improvement in CD management.

The NHSG Controlled Drugs Team can be contacted via email: [gram.cdteam@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.cdteam@nhs.scot).

### Smoking Cessation Update

Tomorrow, Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March, is No Smoking Day and we encourage you to continue promotion! GOLD and SIMD project pharmacies (and anyone else who wants to get involved), please use your Very Brief Advice (VBA) algorithm to opportunistically capture smokers wishing to stop.

A reminder that ASH Scotland's NSD26 toolkit highlighting mental health, personal finances and physical health is available here: [No Smoking Day - ASH Scotland](#).

### Pharmacy First Plus Simulation Training

Please note registration for the Pharmacy First Plus Simulation training taking place on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026 is now closed and at full capacity. If you were interested you can still add your name to the waiting list by emailing: [gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot).

### Enhanced Practice Programme for Pharmacy Technicians

Level 4 Enhanced Practice Programme for Pharmacy Technicians is designed to develop knowledge and skills for enhanced practice roles. This post-registration programme supports a range of roles for pharmacy technicians across all pharmacy sectors. You can find full details here: [Level 4 Enhanced Practice Programme](#).

Queries should be directed to Allwyn Mathew at: [allwyn.mathew@buttercups.co.uk](mailto:allwyn.mathew@buttercups.co.uk).

## NHS Grampian Locum Distribution List

Please be reminded that a copy of the NHS Grampian locum distribution list can be provided on request from a contractor, but must not be shared. Each contractor that would like a copy must contact PCS directly.

Locums can sign up to the NHS Grampian locum distribution list [here](#).

## NES Pharmacy Update

[Click here](#) to view the March 2026 NES Pharmacy Update. This issue includes:

- Community Pharmacy Workforce Report 2025.
- Leading to Change Report: Our Journey Towards Inclusive And Connected Cultures.
- Refreshed Pharmacy Simulation Turas Learn Page.
- Resources, Events and Programmes.

## Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



05/03/2026 • Community Pharmacy Scotland

### Endometriosis Awareness Month - March 2026

Endometriosis Awareness Month runs throughout March, raising awareness of symptoms and encouraging women to seek medical advice.



05/03/2026 • Community Pharmacy Scotland

### Pharmacy Students Urged to ACTNow on Mental Health

Pharmacist Support launches the 2026 Student ACTNow campaign, urging pharmacy students to prioritise mental health on University Mental Health Day.



05/03/2026 • Adam Osprey

### The Policy Snapshot - 05.03.26

This is an overview of the key policy activity, engagement and progress taking place to support and represent the community pharmacy network.



05/03/2026 • Amanda Rae

### Teach & Treat Opportunities

This message is for Independent Prescribing colleagues who are funded by Community Pharmacy Scotland (CPS) and NHS Education for Scotland (NES):

## The Happy Place 😊

### Charity Event: The Aberdeen Dodgeball Showdown 2026

SAMH (Scottish Action for Mental Health) are on the lookout for their 2026 Champions in a brand-new charity tournament coming this Spring! You can find out more about the event and register your team through the registration form [here](#).

***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](#)*