

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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PGD for the Supply of Hydrocortisone 1% Cream or Ointment by Community Pharmacists

Please find attached the recently approved and authorised Pharmacy First PGD;

Patient Group Direction For Community Pharmacists To Supply Hydrocortisone 1% Cream Or Ointment To Patients Aged 1 Month And Over For The Treatment Of Symptoms Of Skin Inflammation Under NHS Pharmacy First Scotland Within NHS Grampian, Highland, Orkney, Shetland, Tayside And Western Isles, Version 1.

Immediate Action Required: Do Not Send CP4 Paper Forms to NSS for Scanning

All community pharmacy led service claims (CP4) must be sent electronically via your PMR system. As the CP4 form plays no role in claims or payments, it must not be sent to NSS for scanning.

Last year, NSS received 706,000 CP4 forms. At this scale, even a small proportion being printed and submitted results in significant duplication, extra handling work, delays to processing, and avoidable environmental impact. In the largest dispensing months, receiving and processing unnecessary CP4 paper forms may put at risk making payments on the agreed date, so it is in the interest of each community pharmacy to comply with the instructions attached.

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.

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, 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.

Measles Cases in Grampian

With confirmation of a second measles case in Grampian, it is vital clinical colleagues know how to recognise the signs and symptoms and how to manage suspected and confirmed cases. Immunisation against measles is strongly encouraged for healthcare workers. If you haven't been vaccinated, please contact OHS by calling Ext 53663 or by email: gram.ohs@nhs.scot.

Public Health Update

Cancer Referral Infographic for Pharmacy Staff

Our colleagues at **Cancer Research UK** and **Healthcare Improvement Scotland** have highlighted a useful resource for community pharmacy teams.

This one-page infographic captures agreed signs and symptoms that warrant further investigation. Although originally designed for medical professionals, feedback from those who already use this in the community pharmacy setting has been positive.

Also, please remember to always promote the "Be the Early Bird" campaign message, encouraging patients to seek GP assistance for any concerns.

You can [access the resource digitally here](#), and CPS are speaking with CRUK on whether hard copies can be made available. In the meantime, we have attached a PDF copy.

Help Shape the Future of Pre-Pregnancy Health Services

Please consider participating in a UK-wide survey exploring pharmacy team members' views on the future delivery of preconception health services in community pharmacy. Pharmacy teams are well placed in supporting people who are preparing for pregnancy and may already be providing pre-pregnancy health support as part of their day to-day activities.

Sharing experiences and perspectives can directly shape how preconception health services are developed and delivered in community pharmacies in the future. All pharmacy team members across Scotland are invited to take part. There is an optional opportunity at the end of the survey to participate in an interview (up to 1 hour on MS Teams, with a £30 thank-you shopping voucher) and/or enter a prize draw for one of five £50 shopping vouchers. Please use the link/QR code below to complete the survey and share with your teams.

This study has undergone full university ethics review and approval, forming part of the Pharmacy4Parents2B doctoral research project led by community pharmacist and researcher, Shivali Lakhani. For any questions about the study, please contact Shivali at: s.lakhani1@rgu.ac.uk

Survey link: [Pharmacy team perspectives on delivering pre-pregnancy health services in community pharmacies](#)

Migraine Training for Pharmacy Teams

Pharmacists and pharmacy teams across NHS Grampian are invited to join a focused live migraine training session on MS Teams.

Delivered by:

- Dr David Watson – GPwSI Headache
- Dr Callum Duncan – Consultant Neurologist
- Abigail Duthie – Community Pharmacist

This session will strengthen your skills in recognising migraine, understanding treatment options, and applying this in day-to-day practice in pharmacy teams.

Wednesday 22 April 2026, 19:00 – 20:30 on MS Teams.

👉 Register [here](#).

💡 More migraine training and resources are also available [here](#).

MedWatch Newsletter: March 2026

Please find attached the March MedWatch newsletter. This edition includes:

- Rybelsus tablets new formulation
- NHRA strengthening dependency and addiction warnings on medicines used to treat pain, anxiety and insomnia
- Shared Learning – please find attached.
- Dopamine Agonists - reminder to counsel patients on risks
- Inappropriate co-prescribing in electronic prescribing systems
- Risk of Overdose with Propranolol and Instalment Prescribing in Primary Care
- Parkinson's Time Critical Medication update (infographic)

Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



12/03/2026 • Amanda Rae

Newly Qualified CPS / NES Funded Employee CPIPs

Congratulations to everyone who has recently passed their IP Courses. Well done! Once you have had the chance to celebrate, here are some details for your next steps:



12/03/2026 • Gordon Winter

The CPS Policy Snapshot - 12.03.26

Welcome to our second **CPS's Policy Snapshot**, a new weekly update designed to keep our members informed about the work Community Pharmacy Scotland is doing on your behalf.



12/03/2026 • Amanda Rae

New CPS/NES Funded Employee CPIP Trainees

Congratulations to everyone who has recently started the Community Pharmacy Scotland (CPS) /NHS Education for Scotland (NES) Funded Community Pharmacy IP Employee training



12/03/2026 • Emma Taylor

PVG Scheme Changes from April 2026: What You Need to Know

Learn about Scotland's PVG scheme changes from 1st April 2026, including five-year membership renewals, phased transition and what organisations should do now.

The Happy Place 😊

Well done to Crimond Pharmacy who have revalidated their GOLD award for a 3rd year! Led by pharmacist Michelle and PH Champions Lori and Sophie. Well done to all the team!



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](#)*