

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



Contents

01: MyCare.scot – Rectification Pathway

02: Datix Reporting System – What Is It?

03: Reminder: Updated Procedure – NHS Grampian Patient Group Direction (PGD) Submissions

04: Survey for Action: Community Pharmacies Currently Contracted to Supply Injecting Equipment (IEP)

05: Surveys for Action: Contraception and HIV Pre Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)

06: Specials and Unlicensed Products

07: Smoking Cessation: The Tobacco and Vapes Bill, Smoking Cessation Data for Oct-Dec 2025 (Q3)

08: Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up

09: The Happy Place ☺

MyCare.scot – Rectification Pathway

MyCare.scot web application went live on 15th April. To support addressing patient queries on the data presented in MyCare.scot, the attached Rectification Pathway Flow v1.0 has been developed by the National Digital Front Door Programme.

In line with pre-election guidance, there will be **no public launch until after the Scottish Parliament elections in May 2026**. During this period, MyCare.scot **should not be actively promoted to the general public**.

The only action for teams is to be aware of the platform's existence and signpost individuals to MyCare.scot should you receive any queries or requests for support from patients or service users. Further information will be shared as the national rollout progresses, including any future implications for services.

As part of the first release, users will be able to log in securely to:

- Check and update personal details
- View information about medicines, allergies and vaccinations
- Access a directory of health and care services

If a patient or member of the public enquires about MyCare.scot, staff should:

1. Direct them to the MyCare.scot website, which includes a Support section, or
2. Refer them to the National Contact Centre (NCC):

Telephone: 0800 030 8014.

Opening hours: 9am–5pm, excluding public holidays.

They should not be directed to their GP Practice.

The public launch campaign for MyCare.scot will take place following the Scottish Parliament elections in **May 2026**.

MyCare.scot will continue to be developed over time, with future releases planned to include a mobile app, digital communications and appointment functionality.

Any queries about the process should be sent to: NSS.ncchelpsupport@nhs.scot. (Appendix 1).

More information can be found here: [CEO Insights - MyCare.scot | Community Pharmacy Scotland](#).

Datix Reporting System – What Is It?

Please find attached a brief summary to remind the community pharmacy network what the Datix reporting system is, and when it is used. Datix allows NHS Grampian staff to identify, assess, respond and monitor risks - to prevent harm or future adverse events happening. Please ensure all staff who are working in your community pharmacy are aware of what Datix is, the purpose and what happens when a Datix report is completed.

Updated Procedure – NHS Grampian Patient Group Direction (PGD) Submissions

This is a reminder that following the launch of NHS Grampian’s Patient Group Direction (PGD) Submissions Microsoft Form on 21st April, paper/emailed copies are no longer accepted, and the form on the webpage linked below must be completed.

Find the form and ‘How To’ guide on the attached link: [Patient Group Directions \(PGDs\) – NHS Grampian](#).

The information gathered from this form will allow NHS Grampian to fulfil its responsibilities to keep a list of all pharmacists operating in its area who have signed the PGD’s currently operating within the Board. We request all pharmacists and locums working within NHS Grampian to complete the form by **1st September 2026**.

For Action: Community Pharmacies Currently Contracted to Supply Injecting Equipment (IEP)

Please find the attached information on two injecting equipment provision surveys. As part of the injecting provision service level agreement pharmacies are required to participate in service evaluation and audit.

The IEP Survey attachment details a piece of joint work which aims to share learning across Injecting Equipment Providers (IEP) in Grampian. **This survey must be completed by all injecting equipment providers by Friday 1st May 2026 - the survey link is within the attachment and also linked below.**

[Grampian Injecting Equipment Provider - Staff Insights Survey](#)

The Needle Exchange Surveillance Initiative (NESI) letter also attached is a national initiative which aims to measure and monitor the prevalence of blood-borne viruses – hepatitis C virus and HIV – and injecting risk behaviours among people who inject drugs (PWID) in Scotland. Pharmacies who provide injecting equipment may be contacted regarding participating in the data collection. Not all pharmacies will be contacted but the attached document provides more information should you be selected to participate.

We appreciate your support with these, and for all your ongoing work with injecting equipment provision.

Lucy Skea, Bethany Potter, Substance Use Pharmacists NHS Grampian

For Action: Contraception and HIV Pre Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Surveys

Please find 2 posters attached promoting NHS Grampian’s Public Health Contraception and HIV Pre Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Survey’s.

The surveys are also available on the Sexual Health website: [Grampian Sexual Health Services | Sexual Health Advice and Information](#).

Specials and Unlicensed Products

Following reports of Specials being ordered using out-of-date authorisation codes, we would like to remind you to always check the authorisation window provided by the NHS Grampian Specials Team. This is usually a 12-month period and will be clearly stated on the returned authorisation request form.

Pharmacist and prescribers should fully understand you carry full personal clinical liability for the prescribing of unlicensed or off-label medicines.

When a prescription for a Special is received in the pharmacy, a series of checks must be undertaken in line with the guidance. These include assessment of patient safety, suitability of the medicine, and discussion with the prescriber. As part of these prior checks you should also ascertain if Health Board authorisation is required.

For more information and the full specials procedure please see our [website here](#) has been updated with additional resources to support compliance with the process.

Smoking Cessation Update

The Tobacco and Vapes Bill

You may already have heard the news of the landmark new law which will make it illegal for anyone born on or after 1st of January 2009 to legally buy tobacco products. **Please note this affects tobacco products only, not vapes.** However, the Bill will also give governments across the UK powers to expand smoke-free places, introduce vape-free places and regulate vape flavours, packaging and displays. Note that Scotland already require vape sellers to have a license.

This new law will take effect on 1st January 2027. More info here: [Tobacco and Vapes Bill - ASH Scotland](#)

Smoking Cessation Data for Oct-Dec 2025 (Quarter 3)

The most recent data is shown in the table below:

2025 – 2026 DATA

	OCT-DEC 2024	JAN-MAR 2025	APRIL-JUNE 2025	JULY-SEPT 2025	OCT-DEC 2025
TOTAL NUMBER OF SIGN UPS	739	1009	835	822	905
MISSED SUBMISSIONS AT 4 WEEKS AND FINANCIAL LOSS	176 (23.8%) £2640	215 (21.3%) £3225	210 (25%) £3150	226 (27%) £3390	248 (27.4%) £3720
TOTAL NUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL QUILTS	157 (21% of all sign ups)	220 (22% of all sign ups)	182 (21.7%)	161 (19.5%)	199 (22%)

Things of note are:

- Sign-ups have increased compared to the same quarter last year.

- Missed submissions at 4 weeks unfortunately remain unusually high at 27.4%. Remember **ALL** sign ups require 4 week submissions.
- Successful quits have risen to 22%, better than last quarter and in line with National data.

You can watch a short video about PCR submissions here: [Smoking Cessation Support Tool Webcast - YouTube](#).

Your Public Health Practitioner has now sent each pharmacy their own data, there have been pockets of great work and next week we will highlight the top performers in Grampian.

Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



23/04/2026 • Robbie Collins

What a Smoke Free Generation Means for Community Pharmacy

A landmark new law, will create a "smoke-free generation" by making it illegal for anyone born on or after 1st of January 2009 to ever buy tobacco.



23/04/2026 • Community Pharmacy Scotland

Recalls and Notifications from Food Standards Scotland

Guidance for community pharmacies on receiving recalls and notifications for medicines and food products, including registering with Food Standards Scotland.



23/04/2026 • Scottish Government

PCA(P)(2026)07 - Serious Shortage Protocol: Ramipril 1.25mg

A Serious Shortage Protocol is in place for ramipril 1.25mg capsules from 22 April to 29 May 2026. Guidance for community pharmacies.



23/04/2026 • Robbie Collins

Community Pharmacy Employee IP Meeting

We are pleased to confirm the CP Employee Independent Prescribers' meetings will take place at **19:30 - 20:30** on the following date:
Thursday 30th April

The Happy Place 😊

We are delighted to share that Crimond Pharmacy who won the "Advancing Independent Pharmacy" award at the Scottish Pharmacy Awards on Saturday. Huge congratulations! Well done to all the finalists, we hope you had a great evening.



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](#)