

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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Agency Referrals

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 as also inserted below. The email will include all patient details, medication prescribed details and clinician details.

Grampian Medical Emergency Department (GMED)			
Date:	Wednesday 3-Aug-22	Agency Phone No.	01346 531956
Patient Name:	Mickey Mouse	Sex:	M
Address:	26 Never Ever Land	Date of Birth:	01-Jan-2001
	Anywhere	Age:	21 years
Home Tel:		Own Doctor:	
Case Origin:	Hospital Nurse (Not WALK IN)	Surgery:	Provider Group
Caller Name:		CHI Number	1111111111
		Tel:	01343 955955
Case Number:			31186
Prescription	Trimethoprim 200mg tablets 1 tab twice daily 6.00		
Consulting DR	Doctor, Doctor		
Agency Comments	test only paper script would usually follow this request		

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 558802** 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.

We have also received reports that agency referral prescriptions received via email at community pharmacies from GMEDs, are not always arriving at community pharmacies via post. Although this is not common, we have discussed the process that should be followed, should this happen.

If you receive a prescription from GMEDs 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 GMEDs team will chase this prescription, and ensure you receive it.

Reminder: Selected List Scheme (SLS) Update

Please be reminded of the attached circular which introduced revised directions as to the drugs, medicines and other substances to be ordered by contractors in the provision of primary medical services under a general medical services contract.

Reminder: sildenafil is no longer listed in [Scottish Drug Tariff: Part 12 Schedule 2](#)

Controlled Drugs Incidents Reported by Community Pharmacies April 2025 – March 2026

Please find attached the trends identified following analysis of controlled drug incidents reported to NHS Grampian controlled drugs team from April 2025 to March 2026.

Co-Sleep Advice for Medicines That Cause Drowsiness

Patients who are parents or carers of babies aged up to 12 months should be counselled on the risks of co-sleeping (sleeping with a baby on a bed, sofa, chair, etc.); for further information on safer sleeping and co-sleeping, see the Lullaby Trust - [Co-sleeping | The Lullaby Trust](#). More information on the updated guidance can be found here - [British National Formulary updates medicine guidance](#).

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**.

Public Health Update

Physio Referrals

“Stand Up To Falls” is a collaboration between Volunteer Falls Ambassadors, Sport Aberdeen, ACHSCP and NHS Grampian. The team offer falls awareness across Aberdeen through popup stands, top tips, advice and signposting. It’s aimed at anyone who is at higher risk of falls.

Lots more information available here including the “Super 6 Exercises” for prevention: [Stand Up to Falls - Sport & Activities - Sport Aberdeen](#).

Aberdeen City Pharmacies, if you have patients who may require physio in the community, they can self-refer to the **Community Adult Assessment and Rehabilitation Service (CAARS) on 01224 558399**. **Grampian wide**, referrals can be made online [here](#).

Smoking Cessation Update

Varenicline Use

Data shows that pharmacies in Grampian use Varenicline as a smoking cessation tool less than other boards in Scotland.

Evidence suggests that it is the most effective medicine for helping people stop smoking (NHS Inform) and we encourage you to consider it where appropriate for your patients.

If you feel a little unsure about using it, CPS hosted a great learning webinar last May which is available to watch here: [Smoking Cessation Varenicline Service AMA May 2025 - YouTube](#)

Remember each individual pharmacist must read and sign the PGD available here: [Patient Group Directions \(PGDs\) – NHS Grampian](#) (note the change in PCS requirement)

The mandatory TURAS course is available here: [NHS Scotland Smoking Cessation service | Turas | Learn](#)

Patient information leaflets are available in English, Polish, Urdu, Punjabi and Hindi along with dummy boxes for helping your patients understand dosing. Please alert your PH practitioner if you'd like any of these. We have attached the English language leaflet for reference.

Trauma-Informed Approaches for Community Pharmacy Teams – Evening Training Sessions

Trauma-Informed Approaches for Community Pharmacy Teams evening sessions are being held at Dunbarney House, Doctor Grays Hospital, Elgin, on Wednesday 27th May 2026 and Wednesday 3rd June 2026.

For more details and contact details to book a place, please find the attached flyer.

Aberdeenshire Alcohol and Drugs Action Family Support Survey

ADA's Family Support Service wants to hear from you, the people who already use, or may consider using, Family Support. ADA plan to hold conversation cafés across Aberdeenshire to gather the views of family members and carers.

If you are interested in coming along, please complete the short survey below to confirm what days, times and areas are most suitable for you. If you wish to be kept informed of any events, please include your contact details. The survey linked below closes on 29th May 2026.

[Aberdeenshire Family Support Survey](#)

Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



18/05/2026 • Graham Le Tissier

Medicines Care and Review (MCR) Ready Reckoner

This week's MCR Ready Reckoner has been updated and is now available to download or you can view it via the App.



14/05/2026 • Adam Osprey

Scottish Parliament Elections Outcome

An update following the Scottish Parliament elections, outlining CPS engagement with political parties and next steps to support community pharmacy priorities.



14/05/2026 • Adam Osprey

CPS Board Update: May 2026 Top Three Items

An update from the CPS Board highlighting three key areas under discussion in May 2026, including Pharmacy First, adjusted prices and Council planning.



14/05/2026 • Gordon Winter

Bi-Annual CPS Council Meeting

Highlights from the CPS bi-annual Council meeting in Edinburgh, including discussions on Pharmacy First, workforce transformation and contract updates.

The Happy Place 😊

"We are so pleased to celebrate the 10 year anniversary of Lisa our fabulous ACT, Jackie our heartfelt dispenser and Patrice our incredible front counter assistant. Lisa started at Newtonhill 11 years ago in 2015 and Jackie and Patrice joined the team shortly after in 2016. From all the staff at Newtonhill, we would be lost without you all and are so happy we get to work with you every day".

We also thank you for the service to your community Lisa, Jackie and Patrice! 🌞



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](#)