

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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Patient Group Direction (PGD) Updates

As a reminder, listed below are recent Patient Group Direction updates which have been shared via email:

- Updated PGD or The Supply And/Or Administration Of Ulipristal Acetate Emergency Contraception (UPA-EC), Version 3.2
- Pharmacy First Hayfever PGD Bundle, Version 2
- National PGD for Urgent Provision of Medicines, Appliances and ACBS Products - updated Medicines A-Z Look-up List, Version 2.2

Please also be reminded that PGD submissions in NHS Grampian have moved to Microsoft Forms.

Paper and emailed copies of PGD's are no longer accepted, and the form linked on the following webpage must be completed: [Patient Group Directions \(PGDs\) – NHS Grampian](#).

Drug Related Harm – Resource Update

As we continue to see high levels drug related harm, including non-fatal overdoses and sadly deaths, we wish to highlight a brand new resource to support conversations around overdose, and specifically advice on what to do after a “near fatal” overdose. These can be ordered and shared with staff, patients at risk and the public.

The two leaflets are:

- What to expect after a near fatal overdose
- How to support someone after a near fatal overdose

These can be ordered from NHS Grampian resources [HPAC](#).

TURAS Issues Update

We continue to receive reports that some individuals are experiencing difficulty locating or accessing certain TURAS modules.

To address this, please ensure that your profile settings are configured to reflect your role as a pharmacist. If issues persist, confirm that you are registered on TURAS and accessing the platform using your NHS.scot email address.

Should you continue to experience difficulties in locating the required modules, please contact pharmacy@nes.scot.nhs.uk, where the team will be able to review your profile settings and provide further assistance.

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](#).

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. We have attached the English language leaflet for reference.

A TEVA representative can send these resources directly to you and also come into the pharmacy to do a training session. You can contact James by email - james.kane@tevauk.com.

Please contact your PH Practitioner if you have any questions.

Nicotine Products

As pharmacy staff, you can only use regulated NRT products as per the Scottish guidance. [Public Health Service | Community Pharmacy Scotland](#).

With the growth of vaping and nicotine pouches, you may feel a little out of your depth and be keen to know more on both a professional and personal level. ASH Scotland have some great short courses around tobacco, vaping, nicotine pouches and behaviour change.

Available at the link here, it's easy to create an account: [Home | ASH Scotland eLearning](#).

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 following survey link below closes this Friday, 29th May 2026: [Aberdeenshire Family Support Survey](#).

Pharmacy School Essentials Grant

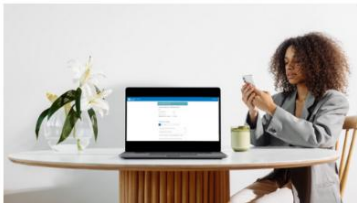
The Leverhulme Trade Charities Trust is running their Pharmacy School Essentials Grant to support the children of pharmacists with the back-to-school essentials. For children whose parent or carer works as a GPhC or PSNI **registered pharmacist or pharmacy technician**, or, **anyone who works in a community pharmacy** (not hospital).

This grant, which opens on 2nd June 2026, aims to help provide support to low-income households with essential items for school-age children. The grant will provide a one-off, **non-repayable grant of £150** per school-age child for up to three children in your household.

Applications will close when the funds are spent - please share this information with your pharmacy colleagues.

More details are available on the link here: [Pharmacy School Essentials Grant | The Leverhulme Trust \(leverhulme-trade.org.uk\)](#)

Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



25/05/2026 • @grahamle1issler

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.



21/05/2026 • @grahamle1issler

My Quit Journey: One Year On

One year after quitting smoking, Graham reflects on how support from his local community pharmacy helped him gain control, build confidence, and achieve lasting change.



21/05/2026 • @robbiecollins

Pharmacy First Scotland - PHS Report

A new report published by Public Health Scotland shows that community pharmacy continues to play an important role in supporting the health and wellbeing of people across Scotland.



21/05/2026 • @grahamle1issler

Shortage Reporter Update - Issues Now Resolved

The Shortage Reporter is now working as intended following recent issues. Guidance on how to use the tool and report concerns.

The Happy Place 😊

This week marks the final week of the Grampian Wellbeing Festival, with lots of events scheduled across Grampian. You can download free wellbeing resources, inspired by the Five Ways to Wellbeing, to help you make small, positive changes during the festival and beyond. View the full programme and resources here: [Grampian Wellbeing Festival](#).

Sticking with the theme of wellbeing, May is also Living Street's *#NationalWalkingMonth*. This year they're asking women to *#WalkOut* and get outside for a walk or wheel for their own wellbeing.

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](#)