

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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Prescribing in Areas out with the Pharmacy First Plus Service

Although there is not currently a defined list of conditions which could be assessed and treated under Pharmacy First Plus, the service specification is for “**common clinical conditions beyond the scope of the standard NHS Pharmacy First Scotland service and would otherwise require onward referral to another healthcare professional**”, with some examples of what might be appropriate. This service should only be provided when an individual **presents with symptoms of a common clinical condition**.

Recent prescribing reports have shown an increase in prescribing for several conditions that do not fall under the scope of Pharmacy First Plus:

- Period delay
- Urgent access to medicines
- Items of low clinical value
- Items include in the Pharmacy First Approved List
- Emergency Hormonal Contraception/NRT – both sit under the **Public Health Service** section of the national contract, **not Pharmacy First**.

A few years ago the NHS Pharmacy First Plus Advisory Group had lengthy discussions about period delay being included – but agreed that it would be more appropriate for it to sit under a “Community Pharmacy Women’s Health” service (as per the commitment of the Women’s Health Plan). Until this service is developed, period delay medications **should not be processed through** the Pharmacy First Plus service.

Enforcement Notice in Weight Management Prescription Medicine Ads

The GPhC, the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) issued an updated joint Enforcement Notice in September 2025, and this was sent to pharmacy owners and Superintendent Pharmacists. Please ensure you read this notice, which makes clear that adverts for named prescription-only (POMs) for weight-management are **prohibited**.

The notice is attached to this email and can be found here:

<https://assets.pharmacyregulation.org/files/2025-09/Enforcement-Notice-prescription-only-medicines-...>



Enforcement Notice:

Prescription-only medicines used for weight management

APC Membership Opportunity – September 2026-July 2029

Applications are now open for membership of the **Area Pharmaceutical Committee (APC)** for the period **September 2026 to July 2029**, with the first meeting scheduled for **Tuesday 1 September 2026**.

The APC provides professional and clinical advice to NHS Grampian and the Grampian Integration Joint Boards on matters relating to pharmaceutical care, patient care, service development, workforce planning, and healthcare improvement.

We are particularly keen to hear from Contractors and Contractor Employees, who are currently underrepresented on the committee. This is an excellent opportunity to influence the future direction of pharmacy services across Grampian and ensure the views of community pharmacy are represented.

Further information can be found in the attached membership documentation.

Help Keep Your Pharmacy Payments on Track

Please download the poster and guidance leaflet from the [paper prescription submission webpage](#), then print and display them in your workspace.

This guidance supports best practice when submitting paper prescriptions and helps keep payments on track. A paper prescription is not just a clinical document. It also triggers payment when Public Services Delivery Scotland successfully scans it, so helping it scan right first time supports timely payment.

Before sending paper prescriptions, please:

- **Ask the GP to reprint them:** If the text is not clear enough to safely dispense from, not valid as a legal record, or not readable for accurate payment.
- **Keep text clear:** No labels, stickers or sticky notes.
- **Add your pharmacy stamp (top right):** Ink must be clear, so we know who to pay.
- **Band them:** Include your paper prescriptions and GP34 declaration form. Keep them flat, facing the same way, with no tears, folds or staples.
- **Form type CP4/3(SS):** This form includes a CP3 and a CP4. Detach and submit the CP3 only. Do not send paper CP4s or include CP3s or CP4s in the declaration. Read the [March 2026 CP4 detailed guidance](#).

Download the guide and poster from the paper prescription submission webpage: [Paper prescription submission webpage](#).

Public Services Delivery Scotland may also send this information to you directly by email.

FINAL REMINDER: Gold Awards are now OPEN!

Currently there are 21 pharmacies in Grampian achieving the GOLD criteria. We are now recruiting 6 more pharmacies to be the Class of 2027.

There are some changes to the award this year for both new and revalidating pharmacies, the name is currently under review but will represent the advanced public health services provided and avoid confusion over varying standards of care provided.

New pharmacies will receive 2 payments; the first £500 on commencement of the award and the second payment of £550 on completion.



The criteria for 2027, along with the training and associated pathways can be found in the attachment. If you think your pharmacy can achieve the criteria by March 2027, please send an email to: gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot, with the following information:

- Pharmacy Name and Contractor Code
- Lead Pharmacist/Prescriber
- Suggested Public Health Champion(s)
- A short blurb about why you'd like to achieve the award and how these more advanced public health services will benefit your patients.

The closing date is 13th July 2026. Successful pharmacies will be notified by 17th July, with first meetings with your Public Health Practitioner taking place week commencing 27th July.

Pharmaceutical Care Services Star Award Programme

Thank you to those who have already nominated a colleague for our new **Staff Recognition and Thanks (STAR) Award**. If you would like to nominate a colleague for a STAR award please see our Microsoft Form submission form here: [Star Award Nominations for Community Pharmacy Staff – Fill in form](#)

As the Pharmaceutical Care Services Staff Thanks and Recognition Award (STAR) is now open for public nominations, we have attached a promotional poster for display within your pharmacy. The poster encourages patients, carers, and members of the public to nominate individual staff members or pharmacy teams who have provided exceptional care, support, or service.

**Received exceptional
care from your
pharmacist or
pharmacy team?**

**Let NHS Grampian
know and nominate
them for a STAR
Award.**

Or email
gram.pcsstarawards@nhs.scot



NHS
Grampian

STAR
COMMUNITY PHARMACY GROUP TRUSTED & IMPROVED

Smoking Cessation Update

[Feedback Form for STAFF Experiencing Smoking Cessation Service Issues](#)

Do you have concerns, issues or suggestions around the current National Smoking Cessation Service?

This feedback form is to gather information from **pharmacy staff** in order to feedback to Community Pharmacy Scotland: [Feedback Form for Pharmacies Experiencing Issues Around Smoking Cessation Services – Fill in form](#)

Public Health- Alcohol Awareness Week

This week is Alcohol Awareness Week. We would be grateful if you could support the campaign by sharing our Facebook posts and helping to raise awareness within your pharmacy.

Community pharmacies play an important role in promoting healthy lifestyles and signposting patients to advice and support where appropriate.

For more information, visit: [Alcohol Awareness Week | Alcohol Change UK](#)

Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



02/07/2026 • Community Pharmacy Scotland

NHS Pharmacy First Scotland - A Summer Holiday Refresher

Reminders and revisit ahead of the holiday season and upcoming events. NHS Pharmacy First (Scotland) Service – including Community Pharmacy Independent Prescribing



02/07/2026 • Milo Menzies

Courier Collection - 7th July 2026

This is a reminder that your next collection date for your prescriptions is the **Tuesday 7th July 2026**.



02/07/2026 • Emma Ramage

Additions to Part 7 as of 1st July 2026

The new updated version of [Part 7](#) is now available for July 2026. This month there are two additions to Part 7 of the Scottish Drug Tariff we wanted to make you aware of:



02/07/2026 • Gordon Winter

World Cup Pharmacy - Practices from Around The World

As World Cup fever grips the planet, CPS is taking two ties and looking at it from a pharmacy perspective.

The Happy Place 😊

Huge congratulations to

Stuart Anderson at Michie's Stonehaven, who is our first featured STAR Award winner.

Stuart was nominated by a fellow colleague, who shared:

"Stuart is such a helpful member of the team and has shown outstanding dedication to both colleagues and patients."



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](#)*