

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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Pharmacy First Plus – Sign-Up Process

Independent Prescribers are requested to contact gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot to receive the required paperwork for completion to get set up to provide the Pharmacy First Plus service in NHS Grampian.

Independent Prescribers are not permitted to provide the Pharmacy First Plus service until all paperwork has been approved by NHS Grampian, and individuals have received their own pad which can take approximately 6-8 weeks to arrive. **Independent Prescribers must only use their own pad.**

Area Pharmaceutical Committee (APC) Membership Opportunity: September 2026 – July 2029

Please be reminded that applications are open until noon on **Friday 14th August 2026** for membership of the Area Pharmaceutical Committee (APC) for the period September 2026 to July 2029, with the first meeting scheduled for **Tuesday 1st 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.

Smoking Cessation Update

CO Monitor Update

Thank you to all pharmacies that have ordered a CO monitor and are using it within their smoking cessation services to support client motivation and validate quit attempts.

Current data indicates that only 25.6% of pharmacies with a CO monitor are recording CO-validated quits on the Pharmacy Care Record (PCR). This suggests that many monitors are not being utilised or recorded consistently.

We would like to encourage all pharmacies to use CO monitoring in line with best practice guidance and ensure that CO-validated results are recorded on PCR where appropriate.

We are also pleased to confirm that NHS Grampian currently has a good supply of CO monitors available. If your pharmacy did not receive a monitor during last summer's distribution, you may request one monitor per pharmacy.

Please refer to the attached information pack, read the guidance, and return the signed declaration form to: gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot.

SCS Data update

All pharmacies across Grampian have now received their smoking cessation data for January to March 2026, with any areas of concern highlighted for your attention.

Please remember that, where submissions are due, you will receive an email every Monday notifying you of any outstanding 4-week follow-up submissions. It is important that you look out for these emails and action any pending submissions promptly.

By working together, we can reduce the number of missed submissions across Grampian pharmacies and improve the overall quality and completeness of our smoking cessation service data.

Ketamine Resources for Staff

A range of resources outlining the harms of **ketamine** use and ways to reduce risk are now available. The materials include posters, social media graphics and video content designed for use across a variety of platforms and audiences. Staff and partner organisations are encouraged to access, download, and share these resources through their networks, websites, and social media channels.

All resources can be accessed here: [Ketamine Resources for Staff – Hi-Net Grampian](#)

PSD Pharmacy Matters Monthly Newsletter: July 2026

Please find attached the July Pharmacy Matters newsletter attached, also available to view here: [Pharmacy Matters Newsletter Issue 2 - July 2026](#).

This issue includes:

- Helping you get Pharmacy First Scotland claims approved [FAO community pharmacists only]
- Do not send CP4 paper forms for scanning [FAO community pharmacists]
- Please do not score out, obscure or deface barcodes on paper prescriptions [FAO all contractors]
- Payment claims for Not Collected/Not Dispensed items [FAO all contractors]
- Avoid payment rejections for Portia pessary claims [FAO all contractors]

Save the Date: Training Sessions

FAST Education, Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland	Various training sessions throughout August and September 2026.	This training, run by Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland, is aiming to improve stroke recognition through improving understanding of the FAST tool. To sign up, please find the attached registration form: Registration Form - FAST Education .
Every Conversation Counts: Supporting Vaccine Decisions in Pregnancy	Tuesday 25 th August 2026, 2.30pm – 4.00pm.	This webinar is aimed at healthcare professionals who may have conversations with pregnant women about vaccination. Further information, including the full programme and registration details, can be accessed via the TURAS Learning Events page: Learning Event - Every Conversation Counts: Supporting Vaccine Decisions in Pregnancy
Non-Medical Prescribing Conference – September 2026	Various bookable sessions on Tuesday 22 nd and Wednesday 23 rd September 2026.	Please find the attached programme, take a look as there are a wide variety of topics on offer. Booking closes at noon on Thursday 17th September 2026 . MS Teams joining links for each individual session will be emailed to those who are booked on approximately 24 hours prior to the session, so please keep an eye on your emails!
CoSRH Scotland Conference: Shaping the Future of Women's Health in Scotland 2026	Tuesday 8 th December 2026 at Augustine United Church George IV Bridge Edinburgh EH1 1EL, or join online.	<i>For the attention of all staff who are interested in sexual and reproductive health within pharmacy services</i> For more information and to book your place: Shaping the Future of Women's Health in Scotland 2026 CoSRH . Please submit any enquiries to: gram.srhtraining@nhs.scot .

Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



10/08/2026 • Robbie Collins

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.



10/08/2026 • Scottish Government

PCA(P)(2026)12 - Extension to Creon® 10000 Serious Shortage Protocol

The Serious Shortage Protocol for Creon® 10000 has been extended until 2 October 2026. Review the updated SSP arrangements.



07/08/2026 • Community Pharmacy Scotland

Share Your Medicines Waste Reduction Story

Community Pharmacy Scotland is keen to showcase examples of how pharmacy teams are helping to reduce medicines waste across Scotland as part of work we involved in nationally.



06/08/2026 • Robbie Collins

PVG Scheme Members: Check Your Email Address Is Up to Date

Disclosure Scotland has published its June 2026 newsletter, covering two important updates for PVG scheme members and customers.

The Happy Place 😊

Congratulations to Lily-Mae from Strachan's Banff, who recently achieved her Accuracy Checking Dispensing Assistant Course. What a great achievement, well done! ★



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.

If you would like to nominate a colleague for a **Pharmaceutical Care Services Staff Recognition and Thanks (STAR) Award** please see our Microsoft Form submission form here: [Star Award Nominations for Community Pharmacy Staff – Fill in form](#)

All weekly updates are uploaded to the [CP Grampian website](#). Remember to like our Facebook page for regular updates: [Community Pharmacy Grampian – NHSG](#)