

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



Contents

- | | |
|--|---|
| 01: Alert: Evidence of Current Transmission of Hepatitis C Virus Amongst People Who Inject Drugs in Grampian | 08: Palliative Care Drug List – August 2026 Update |
| 02: Scottish Drug Tariff Price Reporter | 09: Smoking Cessation Update: CO Monitor Update |
| 03: Pharmacy Care Record (PCR) Access | 10: Public Health Update: International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) |
| 04: Help Reduce Medicines Waste Campaign | 11: Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up |
| 05: Removal of Orange Lidded Sharps Bins | 12: Save the Date – Training Sessions |
| 06: Clinical Waste from Private Services: A Reminder for Community Pharmacies | 13: The Happy Place 😊 |
| 07: General Practice and Mental Health Teaching Centre - Launching August 2026 | |

Alert: Evidence of Current Transmission of Hepatitis C Virus Amongst People Who Inject Drugs in Grampian

NHS Grampian has evidence of current transmission of Hepatitis C virus among people who inject drugs in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. While the risk of acquiring Hepatitis C virus has long existed for people who share drug injecting or snorting equipment, efforts to increase the provision of testing since 2025 has made real-time transmission of Hepatitis C virus easier to see. Please help us to ensure people who inject or snort drugs are aware of the current risk of infection from sharing equipment.

Hepatitis C is a blood borne virus (BBV). The virus is readily acquired through sharing injecting or snorting materials. A majority of people who acquire infection will develop a lifelong infection. Without treatment, infection can cause severe life-limiting liver disease at a relatively young age. Treatment is available that can easily clear the infection.

Please help us strengthen the available control measures:

1. Accessible provision of injecting and snorting equipment

Ensure people understand never to share any injecting or snorting equipment - “a single kit, for every hit”: no sharing of needles, syringes, filters, water, spoons, snorting tubes, straws, hollowed pens, banknotes.

2. Accessible provision of BBV testing

- Offer testing for BBV to people who use drugs at least once every year, or more frequently if there has been ongoing risk e.g. known sharing of equipment or known exposure to BBV, in line with NHS Grampian Clinical Guidance.
- Offer BBV testing to associates or contacts who are known to have been exposed to hepatitis C virus
- Enable people to self-request a test for BBVs without fear of judgement or stigma; people should not be denied a BBV test if they do not wish to engage in substance use services
- Patients and clients can obtain a free BBV test kit by post from gram.bbvpostaltesting@nhs.scot or via healthline: 08085 20 20 30
- NHS Grampian Clinical Guidance is available on the intranet search <https://scottish.sharepoint.com/sites/GRAM-Guidance> for “BBV testing”

3. The timely and accessible provision of treatment

Advice on testing and treatment can be obtained from the Liver Nursing Team (01224 554757) or gram.livernurses@nhs.scot.

Hepatitis C virus is a notifiable organism from diagnostic laboratories to public health. NHS Grampian Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Managed Care Network will work to keep the situation under close review.

Scottish Drug Tariff Price Reporter

Community Pharmacy contractors are reminded to report issues regarding supply availability, including pricing variances (wholesaler vs tariff/adjusted pricing), as per normal processes via the CPS shortage reporter accessible via: [CPS Members Area | Adjusted Prices](#) or [CPS Members Area | Scottish Drug Tariff Price Reporter](#). Increasing pricing should not be a barrier to ordering stocks to fulfil clinically required prescriptions.

Community pharmacies have a **contractual and professional obligation** to supply prescribed medicines, regardless of tariff reimbursement levels.

Pharmacy Care Record (PCR) Access

To be able to deliver a number of both core and national contractual services it is essential to have a personal user ID and password to allow access and utilise the PCR. To request a user name and password, complete a [PCR Registration Form](#), hosted on Microsoft Forms. This request should be undertaken prior to working as a locum pharmacist within NHS Grampian.

Please ensure all locum pharmacists are familiar with the NHS Grampian Locum Pack: [NHS Grampian Locum Pack 2026-27 – NHS Grampian](#).

Pharmacy contractors must ensure that a staff member is available to log into PCR **during all opening hours- including evenings, out of hours and weekends**.

CoPPr is the community pharmacy e-prescription used in NHS Grampian, and uses the PCR system to deliver the CoPPr to the community pharmacy securely. This ensures CoPPr is as accessible to community pharmacies as the discharge letters that are already sent through that route.

There have been a number of concerns raised recently that community pharmacies are not regularly checking their PCR systems for CoPPr prescriptions and/or do not have anyone working with access to PCR. This is not acceptable, **it is vital that community pharmacies have access to the PCR system at all times - to ensure continuity of patient care across NHS Grampian**.

Help Reduce Medicines Waste Campaign

NHS Grampian is launching the **Help Reduce Medicines Waste Campaign**, encouraging patients to only order the medicines they need, keep repeat prescriptions up to date, and avoid stockpiling unwanted medicines. The campaign aims to reduce unnecessary waste, support sustainability, and make the best use of NHS resources. Community pharmacies are asked to help promote these key messages and encourage patients to seek advice from their pharmacist where needed.

For full details, please refer to the attached letter.

Removal of Orange Lidded Sharps Bins

All orange-lidded sharps bins are being phased out across NHS Grampian sites, with the exception of designated blood clinics. All staff should begin using blue-lidded sharps bins and order replacements as required.

Please refer to the attached document for full details and guidance. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Waste manager: gram.scar@nhs.scot.

Clinical Waste from Private Services: A Reminder for Community Pharmacies

As community pharmacies continue to expand the provision of private services such as travel vaccinations, private flu vaccinations, weight management clinics, and other non-NHS healthcare services we have received a number of queries from pharmacies regarding how they should manage this non NHS / private service related waste.

Following clarification from NHS Grampian's Waste Management Team, any clinical waste, medicines waste, or sharps arising from private healthcare services remains the responsibility of the private service provider. Waste generated through private business activities should not be disposed of via NHS-funded clinical waste collections or NHS sharps bins provided for NHS service delivery.

Providers of private services must arrange disposal through a licensed waste management contractor and ensure compliance with all relevant waste legislation and duty of care requirements.

General Practice and Mental Health Teaching Centre - Launching August 2026

A new General Practice & Mental Health Teaching Centre, a joint initiative between the University of Aberdeen and NHS Grampian, will open at Foresterhill on Monday 24th August 2026. The Centre provides supervised clinical learning opportunities for final-year medical students while supporting patient care through agreed General Practice and Psychiatry referral pathways.

For further information, including prescribing arrangements and contact details, please refer to the attached document.

Palliative Care Drug List – August 2026 Update

Please find attached the updated palliative care drug list, which is also available to view here: [Palliative Care Network – NHS Grampian](#).

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.

Public Health Update

International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD)

Please be aware that IOAD takes place on 31st August 2026. We will be running a week-long campaign on [Facebook](#) to remind you of everything relevant including Naloxone PGD's, training and SUS team contacts so please watch out for this commencing on 24/8/26.

Save the Date: Training Sessions

Please find attached upcoming training sessions throughout August and September 2026.

Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



13/08/2026 • Graham Le Tissier

Thank You To Our Sponsors & Final Call For Teams

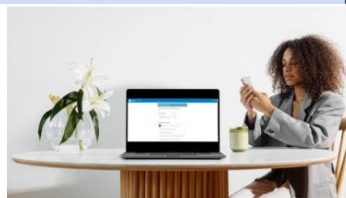
With just over three weeks to go, CPS thanks Charity Golf Day sponsors and encourages final team entries to support Blood Bikes Scotland.



13/08/2026 • Adam Osprey

CPS Snapshot - 13th August 2026

A weekly snapshot of CPS activity including policy work, digital developments and stakeholder engagement across community pharmacy.



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.

The Happy Place ☺

Buchanhaven pharmacy recently celebrated Demi's 18th birthday. We hope that you enjoy all the celebrations!



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](#)*