

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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Rectal Catheters Sold for Personal Use (Gas and Colic Relievers): Do Not Use in Infants, including for the Treatment of Colic, Gas-related Discomfort or Constipation

MHRA has published the attached Device Safety Information (DSI) in partnership with devolved administrations. It applies across the UK and within Scotland it should be implemented by local authorities, health boards and contractors providing publicly funded health and social care services.

A PDF version of the alert is attached. You can also view a web version on the MHRA website at: <https://www.gov.uk/drug-device-alerts>.

The information below has been shared following queries relating to the use of unlicensed medicines to support with medicine shortages.

The Scottish Drug Tariff Procedure and Price Reporter

Please find the attached letter for your attention, which clarifies NHS Grampian expectations regarding the procurement of medicines listed in Part 7 of the Scottish Drug Tariff (SDT) and the reporting of medicine shortages.

Use of Unlicensed Medicines and Specials in the Management of Medicine Shortages

Unlicensed medicines and specials should not be used to manage a shortage where a suitable licensed alternative, or appropriate off-label use of a licensed medicine, is available.

In NHS Grampian all shortages are reviewed by the Pharmacy Medicine Shortages Group. Where required, specific advice will be issued to relevant stakeholders to support timely, safe and consistent management of medicine shortages.

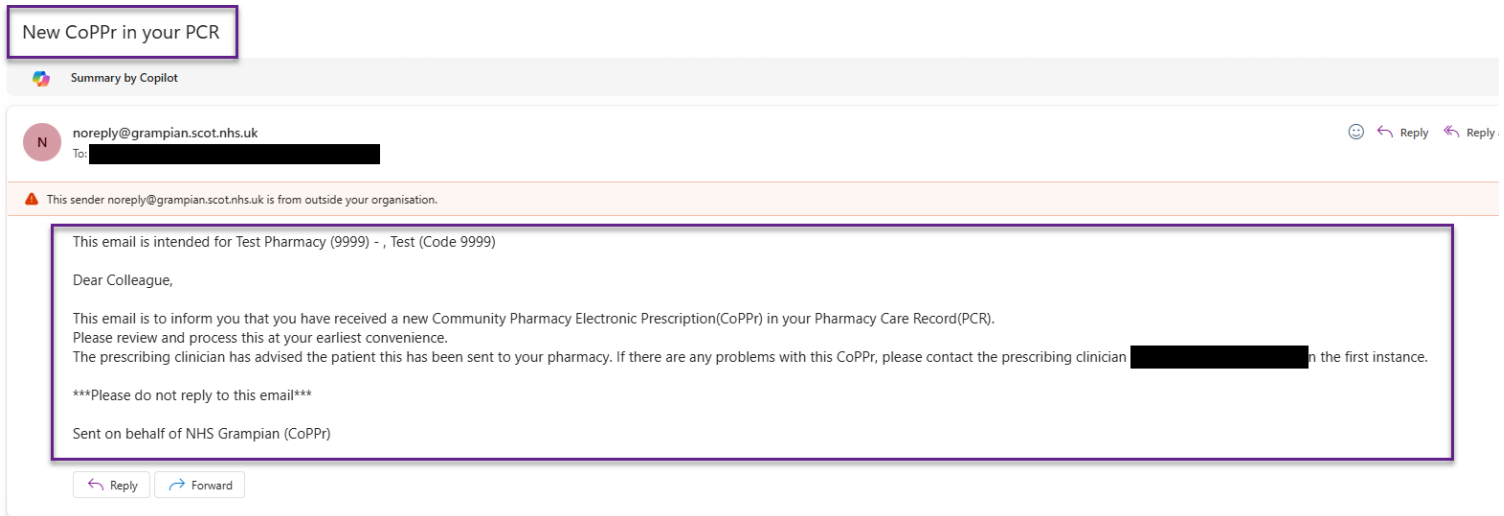
When an unlicensed medicine, a special, or off-label use is considered clinically appropriate, the prescribing clinician must ensure the patient or carer is informed of this.

Further information:

- [MHRA The supply of unlicensed medicinal products special](#)
- [NHS Grampian Specials Approval Process](#)

Notification of CoPPr Prescriptions

Please can we remind all community pharmacies to check your PCR at least once per day, for any new CoPPr prescriptions. Your pharmacy will also receive an automated email, which will look like this:



Please ensure you log onto PCR as soon as you receive this email, and if there is any issue with the prescription or your ability to supply the item then contact the prescriber ASAP. This will prevent any unnecessary travel for the patient and ensure they receive the medication elsewhere.

If you are having any issues or have any concerns about this process, please email the PCS team at gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot and we would be happy to help.

Neuropathic Pain in Adults: Diagnosis, Pharmacological Management & Review

Following a multi-disciplinary review, this guideline has recently been updated and can be accessed via Grampian Guidance.

[Neuropathic Pain In Adults: Guidance For The Primary Care Diagnosis, Pharmacological Management And Review](#)

Please note that within this guidance, lidocaine medicated plasters are included in medication choices for their licensed indication only (post-herpetic neuralgia) which is in line with the Scottish Government [Medicine of Low and Limited Clinical Value recommendations](#).

Ketamine Campaign Materials

Please be reminded that NHS Grampian ketamine awareness posters are now available to order via the [Resources site](#). Search 'ketamine' to find download and print versions.

These posters are free to order/download. Printed versions can either be collected from Summerfield House or delivered to an NHS premises via internal mail.

A maximum of 10 posters can be ordered at a time. If you would like more than 10, please contact the Resources team: gram.resources@nhs.scot.

More information including the videos for sharing is here: [Ketamine Resources for Staff – Hi-Net Grampian](#).

Public Health Update

International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD)

Please be aware that IOAD takes place this Monday 31st August 2026. This week we are 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 these posts and share within your own communities.

Find attached a reminder of the Naloxone flowchart, please ensure you're all familiar with it.

Pharmacist Support – The Profession's Independent Charity

Pharmacist Support is an independent charity offering free, confidential support to pharmacists, trainees, students and their families. They can help with:

- Wellbeing, mental health and workplace stress
- Counselling and peer support (Listening Friends)
- Financial assistance grants
- Debt and benefits advice
- Addiction support, including alcohol, drugs and gambling issues
- Professional and career-related challenges, including university, training and fitness to practise concerns

For further information, visit [Pharmacist Support](#).

NSS Pharmacy Monthly Newsletters: August 2026

Please find attached the August Pharmacy Matters newsletter, also available to view here: [Pharmacy Matters newsletter | National Services Scotland](#).

PSD Pharmacy Monthly Newsletters: August 2026

Please [click here](#) to view the August PSD pharmacy news and events newsletter.

Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



20/08/2026 • Robbie Collins

NHS Pharmacy First (Scotland) Service - Processing Claims

The top question for this week is around the processing of claims for the service.



20/08/2026 • Robbie Collins

Newly Qualified Pharmacists - NHS PFS Service Prescribing

Congratulations again on your recent qualification, and the start of your career as a registered Pharmacist!



20/08/2026 • Robbie Collins

Scottish Pain Pharmacy Network Newsletter: August 2026

The SPPN newsletter is a useful way for pharmacy teams to keep up with what is happening across the pain network



17/08/2026 • Robbie Collins

Infant Feeding Lunch & Learn: Webinar

Community Pharmacy Scotland is supporting to promote an upcoming webinar from colleagues at Public Services Delivery Scotland.

The Happy Place 😊

Congratulations, Marc Logie, on a well-deserved **Pharmaceutical Care Services Staff Recognition and Thanks (STAR) Award** nomination! Thank you for your continued dedication to community pharmacy and patient care. 🌟👏

Marc has been nominated in recognition of the outstanding care, professionalism and support he provides to patients and local communities. Throughout his time at Aberlour Pharmacy, Marc was highly valued by patients and healthcare colleagues alike for consistently going above and beyond to ensure people received the best possible care and support. His compassion, professionalism and willingness to help made a real difference to countless individuals.

Although Marc has now moved on from Aberlour Pharmacy to continue his career elsewhere within NHS Grampian, the positive impact he made has not been forgotten. This nomination reflects the appreciation and gratitude of the patients, colleagues and community he served so well.



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](#)*