

Date: 10 December, 2025  
Our Ref: PCS/PFP- ADHOC  
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Enquiries to: [gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot)

**NHS Circular: PCA (P)(2025) 24 – NHS Grampian update**

Dear Community Pharmacy Contractors,

I am writing to you regarding the new NHS circular that was published on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025 outlining amendments to the Pharmacy First remuneration model and the introduction of Pharmacy First Plus activity pot. You can find it here: [Primary and Community Care Directorate](#).

***ACTION: Due to amendments as detailed within the above circular and to our NHS Grampian Pharmacy First memorandum of understanding (MOU) (attached), all Independent Prescribers (PIP) must return an updated and signed copy of the MOU to [gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot)***

**Ad hoc Provision of Pharmacy First Plus (PFP)**

Until now, each Pharmacist Independent Prescriber who offers Pharmacy First Plus signs a memorandum of understanding (MOU), and this is approved by myself. In order to qualify for the £3000 base payment, the contractor must commit to providing the PFP service a minimum of 25hrs per week, for 45 weeks per year. These hours are monitored via our NHS Grampian IP rota system. Currently, a PIP must complete an MOU for each of the pharmacies they offer PFP at, and this will continue to be the case.

However, the new circular now states that a pharmacy *who cannot offer* PFP for the minimum 25hrs, can offer PFP on an ad hoc basis. They will not qualify for the £3000 base payment, but will receive an activity payment for any prescribing that is undertaken at that branch. It is important to note- **only PIPs who are employed by the pharmacy can do this**, and must have an MOU in place – *no locum pharmacists* can offer PFP unless employed by that specific pharmacy contractor.

If you have a pharmacy that fits within this criteria, and wish for them to offer PFP on an ad hoc basis- then a separate MOU **must be completed by each PIP** that wishes to offer the service at that pharmacy. This is required to ensure NHS Grampian can be satisfied that the pharmacy has appropriate indemnity insurance to offer the service, that the PIP is employed by the pharmacy and they have an annotation on the GPhC register as a prescriber. The PIP will also need to have a designated prescriber code, **for that HSCP area**. Please see section '4. PIP Obligations' on the MOU for full details of the requirements of any PIP who wishes to offer PFP within NHS Grampian.

**ACTION: If you have a pharmacy that fits this criteria and wish for them to offer PFP on an ad hoc basis. A separate MOU must be complete and returned by each PIP to [gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot)**

The following must be followed at all times when offering PFP:

- if a PIP is working in a community pharmacy in **Aberdeen City**- they must use a PFP pad with an Aberdeen City prescriber code;
- if a PIP is working in a community pharmacy in **Aberdeenshire** they must use a PFP pad with an Aberdeenshire prescriber code;
- if a PIP is working in a community pharmacy in **Moray** they must use a PFP pad with a Moray prescriber code.

N.B. We do recognise that PIPs may not have the individual City, Shire or Moray prescription pads already and it will take time for them to be ordered and arrive. Therefore in consideration of this, prescribing may continue over the busy winter period until we receive updated paperwork. We are allowing PIPs until the end of February 2026 to comply with this requirement.

There are now 2 versions of the MOU – one for use when working in community pharmacies offering the 25hrs+ and claiming the base fee, and one for use when working in community pharmacies who offer the service on an ad hoc basis. **Every PIP must have an MOU in place for every community pharmacy they work at.**

#### **Prescription Security Reminder**

As a reminder, the MOU states that the NMP NHS Grampian policy must be adhered to – see attached policy for details, especially around prescription pad security/storage.

**Prescription pads must be stored securely at the community pharmacy at all times- and under no circumstance carried around with PIP/stored out with the pharmacy.**

Yours sincerely,



Laura Karim  
Pharmaceutical Services Improvement and Development Manager