

Dear Community Pharmacy Teams

You may have seen in the press over the weekend the Public Health Scotland Drug Alert on the continuing presence of harmful substances which include the identification of new Synthetic opioids and benzodiazepines in the drugs supply chain leading to increased risk of overdose and death.

Please see the alert which contains information on the risks along with harm reduction advice. [New Public Health Scotland \(PHS\) Drug Alerts](#)

It's really important that community pharmacy teams are aware of these alerts so you can provide information directly to patients and support the public on how to keep themselves or others safe.

For further information on how public health Scotland are identifying harm from illicit drugs see the latest RADAR report [About this release - Rapid Action Drug Alerts and Response \(RADAR\) quarterly report - January 2026 - Rapid Action Drug Alerts and Response \(RADAR\) quarterly report - Publications - Public Health Scotland](#)

Community Pharmacy staff have an important role to play when it comes to supplying take home naloxone and harm reduction advice. Reminder below on the services you can use to supply naloxone and also link to "save a life leaflet" which has useful information on spotting the signs of overdose and action to take in any drug overdose not just opioids.

[How to save a life. Emergency response to a drug overdose, and harm reduction advice](#)

All community pharmacies in Scotland require to keep a MINIMUM of two Naloxone kits in stock for use in an immediate overdose emergency.

In addition for all Community Pharmacies in NHS Grampian signed up to level 1 SMS SLA you should be offering and supplying take home naloxone. For all Local Service level Agreements see [Service Level Agreements \(SLA's\) – NHS Grampian](#)

Very important that Naloxone supply and training on its use is regularly offered to people at risk of an accidental opioid overdose, or those that may witness or be around/support someone who uses drugs.

This includes but is not limited to, patients receiving opioid replacement therapies, clients who are accessing needle exchange or using illicit drugs, those prescribed high dose opioids. Link provided below for NHS Grampian Supply of Naloxone guidance, Community Pharmacies fall under drug treatment services.

[Guidance For Drug Treatment Services In Grampian Undertaking Supply Of Naloxone To People At Risk Of Opioid Overdose, Significant Others And Services In Contact With Those At Risk](#)

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