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| **NHS Grampian****Service Level Agreement****Community Pharmacy Palliative Care Network** |

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| **SLA Reference** | SLA\_Palliative Care Network |
| **Version** | 9 |
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| **Author** | Peter Maclean |
| **Approved By** | David Pfleger |

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| 2 | April 2017  | Annual update |
| 3 | April 2018  | Annual update |
| 4 | April 2019  | Annual update |
| 5 | April 2020 | Annual update |
| 6 | April 2021 | Annual update – changes to formatting and wording, removal of need to submit monthly date checking sheet, addition of appendix 1 (reference info), addition of appendix 2 (form to log out of hours contact details), hyperlinks to website added in for key documents |
| 7 | April 2023 | Annual update |
| 8 | April 2024 | Annual update |
| 9 | April 2025 | Annual update |

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| **Summary of Changes from Previous Version**  | General minor changes to wording and grammatical alterations.  |
| **Supersedes** | **Version 8 – April 2024** |
| **Consultation Undertaken**  | **Laura Karim** Pharmaceutical Care Services Improvement & Development Manager**Alistair Duncan**Specialist Pharmacist for Palliative Care  |

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# Introduction

This Service Level Agreement (SLA) acts as a contract between NHS Grampian and the pharmacy contractor and commits the contractor to provide the services as defined by, and using documents provided in, this SLA. Services will be provided within the legal and ethical framework of pharmacy as a whole.

A three month notice period must be provided if either party wish to terminate this contract. Where a breach in terms of the SLA has occurred the 3 month notice period may not apply.

This agreement is for the period 1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026, however, remains valid and must be adhered to as per the agreement whilst under review.

# Background to service

The NHS Grampian Community Pharmacy Palliative Care Network was set up in 1999 after a formal needs assessment recognised the need for the prompt supply of palliative care drugs by community pharmacists, especially during out-of-hours periods.

# Service aims

* 1. To ensure access at all times (during trading hours and out of hours) to a range of palliative care medicines which may be required by patients being cared for in a primary care setting from a network of named community pharmacies.
	2. To provide information and advice to patients, carers and other healthcare professionals on matters relating to palliative care medicines (within the competency of the community pharmacy contractor).

# Service outline and standard

* 1. The pharmacy contractor will ensure that the medicines listed in the ‘Core palliative stock medicines for network’ are kept in stock at all times and that any core stock medicines due to expire are replaced before the expiry date is reached.
	2. A monthly check of expiry information for all palliative care medication listed in the ‘Core palliative stock medicines for network’ list should be undertaken and retained in the pharmacy for reference (and made available to NHS Grampian if requested).
	3. If the pharmacy contractor is unable to supply any palliative care medication(s) requested or arrange a supply within the required timeframe (i.e. before the medication is required) they must ensure that the patient either receives a supply from another pharmacy contractor or is assessed by an appropriate prescriber who can provide a prescription for alternative medication(s) within a suitable timescale.
	4. The pharmacy contractor will ensure the provision of support and advice, within their competency, to the patient, carer, or healthcare professional on matters relating to medicines used in palliative care. If the advice/support sought is out-with the competency of the pharmacy contractor (s) he will refer the person seeking advice/support to an appropriate source to obtain the necessary support/advice e.g. GP, local McMillan team (for patient/carer) or Palliative Care specialist team at Roxburghe House (for healthcare professionals). See Appendix 1 for details of key contacts.
	5. The pharmacy contractor must complete and return the Emergency Contact Number section of the SLA Sign up document returned to Primary Care Contracts. These numbers are for circulation to members of the Specialist Palliative Care team and other appropriate services (e.g. G-MED) to facilitate provision of the SLA out-with normal trading hours.

# Training requirement

* 1. The pharmacy contractor is responsible for ensuring that all pharmacy staff are suitably trained in their roles and responsibilities with regard to the provision of this service and are competent to deliver them.
	2. Standard operating procedure(s) covering all aspects of service provision should be in place in the pharmacy and be used to ensure staff are competent and have a consistent approach to delivery of this service.
	3. Pharmacists and key pharmacy staff working in a Palliative Care Network pharmacy should complete the NES E-Learning Module “Palliative Care” available in the Pharmacy CPD Resources section on TURAS. This should include regular locum or ‘relief’ pharmacists. Additional training materials are available on TURAS and other resources are also detailed within the NHS Grampian Community Pharmacy website (login required).
	4. A representative for the Palliative Care Network pharmacy (pharmacist or key pharmacy staff) should attend any local training initiatives relating to palliative care, identified as mandatory by NHS Grampian and complete any subsequent feedback forms.

# Monitoring & evaluation

* 1. Pharmacy contractors should retain a copy of palliative care stock monthly date checking and make available to NHS Grampian, if requested, for audit purposes.
	2. Pharmacy contractors should retain any claims for date expired core palliative care stock (made via the [Pharmacy Claim Workbook](https://www.communitypharmacy.scot.nhs.uk/nhs-grampian-community-pharmacy-services/pharmacy-claim-workbook/)) and make available to NHS Grampian, if requested, for audit purposes.
	3. Pharmacy contractors should maintain evidence of completion of the NES distance learning package ‘Pharmacist in Palliative Care’ and submit to NHS Grampian, if requested, for audit purposes.

# Claims and payment

* 1. An annual fee of £609 will be paid in two equal instalments of £304.50. The first payment will be made in May 2025 and second payment will be made following proof of attendance to at least one palliative training event arranged or approved by or on behalf of PMD held during the year (Dates TBC).
	2. Claims for replacement of expired core stock medicines can be made via the Pharmacy Claim Workbook. Submission of photographic evidence of date expired stock and an invoice detailing the cost of replacement stock should be sent to gram.pcctpharmacy@nhs.scot alongside the pharmacy claim workbook to validate the claim. Claims should be submitted before the 7th of the month for the previous month in order to receive payment. Failure to submit evidence alongside claim may cause delays in payments being processed.
	3. Claims for date expired medication older than 3 months will be deemed as an historical claim and will not be paid.
	4. An additional £250 call out fee will be paid if a member of the palliative care network of pharmacies is ‘called out’ by a member of the healthcare team to provide urgent palliative care medicines out-with normal contracted working hours. To receive payment contractors must send notification to gram.pcctpharmacy@nhs.scot within 28 days of the call out taking place.

# References

[Scottish Palliative Care Guidelines - Home](https://www.palliativecareguidelines.scot.nhs.uk/)

# Appendix 1 - Key contact details for further support

**For palliative care pharmacies**

[Scottish Palliative Care Guidelines - Home](https://www.palliativecareguidelines.scot.nhs.uk/)

Roxburghe House 24 hour advice line - 01224 557057

Alistair Duncan (Specialist Pharmacist - Palliative Care) - alistair.duncan@nhs.scot

**For patients**

[NHS Inform – Palliative Care Home](https://www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/palliative-care)