Community Pharmacy Services Weekly Newsletter

Welcome to the Community Pharmacy Services Weekly Newsletter…

Thank you for your ongoing hard work and commitment to delivering high-quality services across our communities. In this edition, we've included key updates, reminders, and useful information to support you and your teams in the week ahead. As always, we appreciate your engagement and encourage you to reach out with any questions or suggestions for future content!

Communication & Engagement

We continue to progress several service development and review projects, including the Pharmaceutical Care Services Plan and Model Scheme of Hours review, with a focus on ensuring sustainable, equitable access to pharmaceutical care for our communities. Please reach out to your colleagues on the relevant committees to feed into these pieces of work.

Service Updates & Clinical Information

North Highland Staff Flu Vaccination Campaign

As the Autumn/Winter vaccination programme gets underway across North Highland, we are encouraging all health and social care staff to take up the offer of flu vaccination. Vaccination remains one of the safest and most effective ways to protect staff, patients and our communities against flu this winter. Good vaccination uptake can also help reduce sickness absence and support workforce resilience during the busy winter period.

As detailed within the seasonal CMO letter, those eligible for a free flu vaccination as part of the occupational offer include:

Frontline health and social care workers
All NHS staff, including non-frontline NHS staff

The flu vaccine is safe, effective and provided free of charge to eligible health and social care staff as part of the occupational vaccination offer. While some people may experience mild side effects following vaccination, these are generally less significant than influenza infection itself.

We want to make it as easy as possible for staff across North Highland to access vaccination and are continuing to increase the range of opportunities available, including through participating community pharmacies. Vaccination opportunities are being promoted across the workforce, and community pharmacies may therefore see increasing numbers of eligible staff accessing the service.

Community pharmacy made a valuable contribution to the staff vaccination programme last year, and we would like to thank all pharmacies already supporting the programme this year.
If your pharmacy is not currently participating but would be interested in supporting the North Highland staff flu vaccination programme, please contact the Community Pharmacy Services team at nhsh.cpsoffice@nhs.scot.

Medicines Supply & Safety

The shortages log can be found under Clinical > Pharmacy > Medicines Shortages on the NHS Highland intranet or directly at the link here: Medicine Shortages

Please see the updated Medicine Shortages Flow Chart which has been developed to support community pharmacy teams in managing and reporting medicine shortages consistently across NHS Highland.

Alerts sent out:

DRUG ALERT CLASS 4 – No 46 2026 – CLASS 4 MEDICINES DEFECT INFORMATION – CAUTION IN USE – SANDOZ LTD – CO-AMOXICLAV POWDER FOR ORAL SUSPENSION 250/62.5MG/ML

DRUG ALERT CLASS 3 – No 47 2026 – CLASS 3 MEDICINES RECALL – ACTION WITHIN 5 DAYS – ASPIRE PHARMA LTD – TROPICAMIDE 1% EYE DROPS SOLUTION IN SINGLE DOSE CONTAINERS 20 X 0.5ML

Pre-Authorised list updated for February 2026 for Community Pharmacists can be found here.

Pharmacy Operations & Compliance

Travel Vaccination Claims – Monthly Reminder

Please ensure that monthly claims include activity undertaken **between the 1st and the last day of the relevant calendar month only.**

Payments are calculated using activity extracted from the VMT each month. When recording activity, please ensure that **only NHS vaccinations are included for payment and that any privately administered vaccines are excluded.**

Claims will be checked against VMT activity for the corresponding period, and **any discrepancies will be queried**.

Workforce & Training

Future Foundation Training Year Placements 2026-2027

The Foundation Training Year (FTY) is a structured 52-week training programme undertaken by trainee pharmacists following completion of their MPharm degree. Community pharmacy placements provide supervised, practice-based learning to support the development of clinical, professional and consultation skills required for registration as a pharmacist, with training delivered in line with the national NHS Education for Scotland (NES) programme.

Please find attached the following Microsoft Form to support with Current and Future FTY planning:

Future FTY placements – Community Pharmacy – Fill in form

Appraisals & Personal Development Plans

The Pharmacy Strategy 2025-2030 is currently well under way. The Workforce Planning workstream has asked us to share the following with contractors. They have been working on a survey regarding PDPs. The survey aims to establish a baseline of appraisal and Personal Development Plan (PDP) completion across NHS Highland Pharmacy Services, to identify gaps and inform actions that support workforce development and delivery of the 2025–2030 Pharmacy Services Strategy.

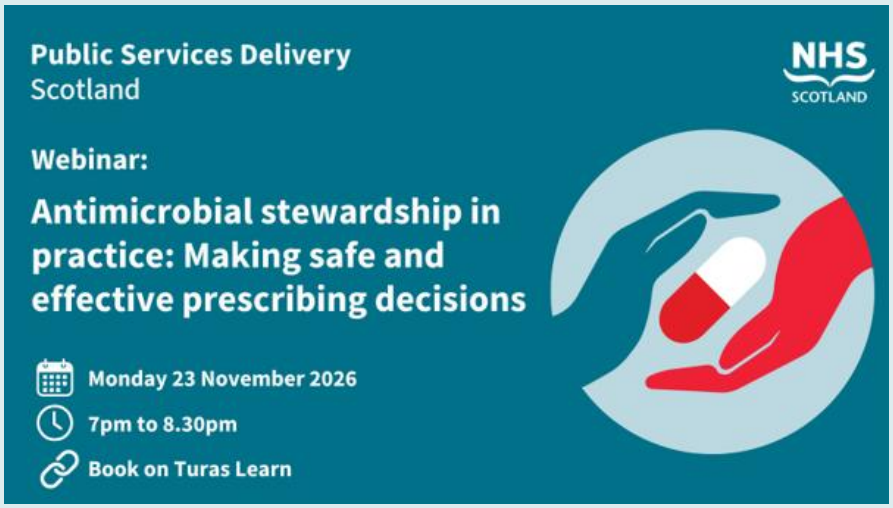
Appraisals & Personal Development Plans (Page 1 of 5)

Antimicrobial Stewardship in Practice Webinar

Join us on **Monday 23 November 2026, 7pm to 8.30pm**, for a national webinar exploring the current antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) landscape in Scotland.

The session is suitable for all primary care prescribers and other health and social care professionals with an interest in antimicrobial stewardship.

- Register for Antimicrobial stewardship webinar
- Access Antimicrobial Stewardship resources on Turas Learn



Webinar Invite - Bringing Libre into Everyday Primary Care Practice

Dear colleagues, please join one of four lunchtime webinars taking place on **10 November, 24 November, 20 January, and 3 February.** Join experienced Primary Care clinicians and healthcare leaders in the devolved nations as they share practical insights, real-world experiences, and key lessons learned from integrating Libre into routine practice.

Join us to:

- Understand the impact of Libre systems through real-world data and experience
- Explore the real-world example of Libre systems integration in Wales
- Build confidence in integrating Libre systems into routine Primary Care practice
- Gain practical tips and approaches that can be applied within your own setting

To register, simply click HERE or scan the QR code on the linked poster.

HIV Informed Awareness Session 25th November

To mark World AIDS Day, the health improvement team are delighted to be delivering an online HIV Informed Awareness Session for NHS Highland colleagues, in collaboration with Waverley Care, and would love for you to join us.

This NHS Highland-specific session will begin by exploring the current picture of HIV in Highland, including local data, trends and key information relevant to our communities and services. We will then look at HIV today, the impact of stigma, and how the HIV Informed programme can support health and social care staff to feel more confident delivering inclusive, stigma-free care.

Tuesday 25 November, 13:00-14:00

Register for the HIV Informed Awareness Session:
Health improvement: HIV informed - creating stigma-free health and social care services | Turas | Learn

World AIDS Day is an opportunity to reflect on the progress made and the work still needed to tackle HIV stigma. This session will provide an opportunity to increase your understanding of HIV, consider the local Highland context, and explore how we can all contribute to reducing stigma through our everyday practice.

Please feel free to share this invitation with colleagues or anyone who may be interested.

Community & Innovation

Pharmacy ACTNow Campaign November 2026

About the 2026 Pharmacist ACTNow campaign

Pharmacist Support is proud to announce the return of our pharmacist ACTNow wellbeing campaign, running this year for three weeks from Monday 2nd November – Sunday 15th November.

This year's campaign will focus on personal and workplace wellbeing, with free digital resources, interactive activities, podcasts and social media content to help individuals and employers prioritise mental health and wellbeing in a practical and supportive way. To benefit from all of this, and long-term support, pharmacists will need to sign up to our e-newsletter.

If you would like to use this section to celebrate one of your teams, please email the nhsh.cpsoffice@nhs.scot.

Dates & Deadlines

Upcoming Health Events that may be of interest:

- **Movember** - Men's Health Awareness Month - Responsible for thousands of moustaches on men's faces. Aims to raise vital funds and awareness for men's health.
- **National Self Care Week** - 16-22 November 2026 - Self Care Week is an annual national awareness week that focuses on embedding support for self-care across communities, families and generations.

Key Information to Keep Handy

Weekly Mailing items can additionally be found on the NHS Intranet site at the following link - weekly mailing 2026 **which is only accessible from community pharmacy premises. The Weekly Mailing can also be found on the Community Pharmacy NHS Highland Page** NHS Highland**.**

NHS Intranet site can also be accessed via the Community Pharmacy Site under 'Local Links' using this link: http://www.communitypharmacy.scot.nhs.uk/nhs_boards/highland.html

Community Pharmacy Smartsheet Link can be found Here

Treatment and Medicines (TAM) Link can be found Here

Shortages Link - Medicine Shortages

Shinyapp Link can be found Here

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