



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.

Service Updates & Clinical Information

Principal Lead Post-Registration Programmes:

This programme is aimed at pharmacists early in their career, who are in patient-focussed roles to encourage them to develop knowledge, skill, values and behaviours to confidently practice in community, hospital or primary care practice. The registration for the new programme opened on 1 August 2026 and closes on 25 September 2026, with the programme commencing on 1 October 2026.

For more information/to register please see the links below:

[Registration flyer Oct 26](#)

[Information new programme for learners and ESs July 2026 final](#)

GPhC advice for newly qualified prescribing pharmacists:

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) has issued guidance for newly qualified prescribing pharmacists ahead of the first cohort joining the register. From summer 2026, most newly registered pharmacists will qualify as independent prescribers at registration, marking a major change to pharmacy training. To support this, the GPhC has embedded prescribing knowledge, skills and behaviours throughout the four-year pharmacy degree and the supervised foundation training year.

Please see the Advice for newly qualified prescribing pharmacists [here](#).

Smoking Cessation:

We have an upcoming training day with the Smoking Cessation Advisors. In preparation for the day, are there any recurrent queries that any Community Pharmacy Teams have in relation to the Smoking Cessation service? If so, please email Eleanor.rose@nhs.scot. The day is a great opportunity for the Community Pharmacy Services Team to help bridge the gaps in Shared Care Patients.

There is a helpful video on YouTube from community Pharmacy Scotland, albeit old, on how to submit Smoking Cessation details onto the PCR. Please disregard the information saying that technicians cannot access this as this has been updated since the video was completed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QF4SsPlwht8>

Could your pharmacy have a Smoking Cessation Champion who could lead on the service?

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.

Medicine Sick Day Rule Cards Update

The [Polypharmacy Guidance](#) was updated in June 2026. We have updated the medicine sick day guidance (MSDG) cards and leaflets to reflect the changes.

The MSDG card is a useful resource for patients, carers, and health professionals. It promotes better management of long-term conditions. It does this through the safer, more effective and person-centred use of medicines. It helps to raise awareness of potential harms if patients continue to take certain prescribed medicines whilst suffering from a dehydrating illness. You can also access an [online tool](#) via Right Decision Service.

[Medicines sick day cards: June 2026 – Healthcare Improvement Scotland](#)

Alerts that have been sent out:

[MSAN \(2026\)33 - Ramipril 1.25mg, 2.5mg, 5mg and 10mg capsules](#)

[CMO CPO CNO Letter on Risks Associated with the Long-Term Use of Depo-Provera®](#)

[Circular PCA\(P\)\(2026\) 14 - SSP for lansoprazole 15mg orodispersible tablets - 11 September 2026](#)

[Circular PCA\(P\)\(2026\) 15 - SSP for lansoprazole 30mg orodispersible tablets - 11 September 2026](#)

Pre-Authorised list updated for February 2026 for Community Pharmacists can be found [here](#).

Pharmacy Operations & Compliance

Please find the new Care at Home Service Level Agreement (SLA) 2026, which has been developed following a comprehensive review of the service and approved by the Community Pharmacy Highland Contractors Committee in September 2026.

Contractors are asked to review the agreement carefully, complete and sign the acceptance section, and return it to the Community Pharmacy Services Office by the specified deadline. This is October 15th 2026.

The updated SLA sets out the service requirements, responsibilities, and governance arrangements for the provision of Care at Home support within NHS Highland.

[Care at Home Service Level Agreement](#)

Complaints (Patients & Customers)

Community Pharmacy Contractors are contractually obliged to supply this information to the Board, even if there are no complaints raised in the quarter. Those who do not supply this information are in a breach of their Terms of Service.

[Complaints \(Patients & Customers\) – NHS Highland](#)

Thank to those that have submitted within the date of required. If you have not completed, please submit as soon as possible as this is now beyond the deadline.

Public Health Updates

Vaccination Spotlight: Hepatitis A

What is Hepatitis A?

Hepatitis A is a viral infection of the liver caused by the hepatitis A virus. The virus is spread through contaminated food and water or by direct contact with an infectious person. While most people recover completely, illness can be severe and prolonged, particularly in older adults and those with existing liver disease.

Key Symptoms

- Fever and fatigue
- Loss of appetite, nausea and abdominal pain
- Dark urine and pale stools
- Jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes)

NB. Infection may occur without symptoms or may result in a mild illness lasting a few weeks.

Who is at Risk and may require vaccination?

Risk Group	Vaccination Recommended
Travellers to countries where hepatitis A is common	✓ Yes
Men who have sex with men	✓ Yes
People who inject drugs	✓ Yes
Individuals with chronic liver disease	✓ Yes
Occupational exposure risk	✓ Yes
Close contacts of cases during outbreaks	May be advised by public health teams

Hepatitis A vaccination schedule

- 1st dose followed by a booster dose 6 to 12 months later
- Protection can last up to 25 years following completed of the 2-dose course (Green Book guidance)
- **Age 1- 15 years – Junior** hepatitis A vaccine
- **Age 16 years and over – Adult** brand of hepatitis A vaccine

Role of Community Pharmacy

- ✓ Provide travel health advice and discuss vaccine requirements early
- ✓ Identify patients who may be eligible because of medical conditions or lifestyle factors
- ✓ Promote good hand hygiene and food safety measures when travelling
- ✓ Signpost patients with symptoms suggestive of hepatitis to seek medical assessment

Key Message for Patients

"Hepatitis A is preventable. Vaccination and good hygiene are the best ways to protect yourself, especially when travelling."

Workforce & Training

TREC training – Travel Health

New dates have been released by TREC (Travel-Health Related Education and Care) including a 2-day course for colleagues new to travel health and an update day for those who have previously undertaken travel health training. Please note these courses are not covered by NHS Highland.

[The Basic Requirements – 2 Day Travel Health Course](#)

Community & Innovation

The Community Pharmacy Services Team would like to take a moment to send a huge congratulations to Campbeltown Pharmacy.

Campbeltown Pharmacy has been named Independent Pharmacy of the Year at the Chemist & Druggist Awards 2026. Community Pharmacy is a constant challenge, and each day brings problem solving to a whole new level! To be recognised nationally for this award is amazing and is so well deserved.



CONGRATULATIONS, CAMPBELTOWN PHARMACY!



Independent Pharmacy of the Year — Chemist & Druggist Awards 2026

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:

- **Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month: September 2026:** Raising awareness of the symptoms and need for more research into pulmonary fibrosis.
- **Highland Recovery Walk: 26th September 2026:** Join us for a [Highland Recovery Walk](#) leaving from the Raigmore Recreational Hall located within the grounds of Raigmore Hospital in Inverness.

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](#)

Community Pharmacy Champion Details are as follows:

North

James Higgins

Email:

james.higgins2@nhs.scot

Mobile: 01463 232712

Based: Dalneigh Pharmacy,
Inverness

PMR: Pharmacy Analyst

Jane Hunter

Email:

jane.hunter14@nhs.scot

Work: 01463 782241

Based: Boots, Beaulieu
PMR: Columbus

Jennifer Moncur

Email:

jennifer.moncur@nhs.scot

Work: 01397 712146

Based: MhorHealth Pharmacy,
Spean Bridge

PMR: Pharmacy Analyst

Argyll & Bute

Susan Paterson

Email:

susan.paterson9@nhs.scot

Mobile: 01546 603217

Based: Argyll Pharmacies,
Lochgilphead

PMR: Proscript Link

Colin Jaconelli

Email: colin.jaconelli2@nhs.scot

Mobile: 01436 842457

Based: Davidsons Chemist, Kilcreggan

PMR: Nexphase

Controlled Drug Inspectors Details are as follows:

North

Lynn Matheson

Email: Lynn.Matheson@nhs.scot

Inspection Officer for Controlled Drugs

North, Mid & West,

NHS Highland

Mark Czerniakiewicz

Email:

mark.czerniakiewicz@nhs.scot

Inspection Officer for Controlled Drugs

Inverness, South & Skye

NHS Highland

Argyll & Bute

Morag MacNicol

Email: Morag.Macnicol@nhs.scot

Inspection Officer (Controlled Drugs) NHS

Highland (Argyll & Bute HSCP)

IM&T Facilitators

Heather Affrin

NHS Highland North

nhshighland.ehealthfacilitators@nhs.scot

Margaret Robertson

NHS Highland A&B

margaret.robertson5@nhs.scot

