



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?

Travel, Flu and Covid SLA.

For Highland HSCP, pharmacies can provide the Travel Health, Flu Vaccination and COVID-19 Vaccination Services. Flu service documents are attached in the link below, and vaccine stock will be issued once a signed SLA is returned. COVID-19 vaccination is offered only where there is local need, and interested pharmacies should contact the CPS Office – nhsh.cpsoffice@nhs.scot

For Argyll & Bute HSCP, only the Travel Health Service is currently available. Flu and COVID-19 vaccination services are not currently commissioned but may be considered in future planning.

The Travel Health Service fee structure has been updated, with revised payments backdated from April to September 2026 for existing providers. Pharmacies already delivering the service should sign and return the updated SLA. New requests to provide the service will be assessed based on local population need and must be submitted through the CPS Office.

An updated claim form will be circulated to all pharmacies within the next week. Please ensure you use the revised version, which will also be available here:

[Monthly Claims – NHS Highland](#)

[Vaccinations & Travel Health Service – NHS Highland](#)

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 that have been sent out:

[MSAN \(2026\)34 - Lansoprazole 15mg and 30mg orodispersible tablets - level 2 - 16 September 2026](#)

[Drug Alert Class 4 – No 38 2026 – Class 4 Medicines Defect Information – Caution In Use – Martindale Pharmaceuticals Ltd - Clobazam Martindale Pharma 5mg/ML And 10mg/5ml Oral Suspension 150ml](#)

[Launch Of Video Remote Interpreting \(Vri\) Pilot: Community Pharmacy](#)

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.

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

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
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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
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Controlled Drug Inspectors Details are as follows:

North

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North, Mid & West,
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Mark Czerniakiewicz
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Inspection Officer for Controlled Drugs
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Argyll & Bute

Morag MacNicol
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IM&T Facilitators

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