

Community Pharmacy NHS Lanarkshire 18th May Update

Do you stock Fostair or Luforbec? Many inhalers prescribed in NHS Lanarkshire that treat both asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are available as alternative brands. They are therapeutically equivalent, in like for like devices but are more cost effective. Switching patients to bioequivalent brands of inhalers which use the same devices allows us to release efficiencies from the spend on respiratory, whilst having no impact on patient care as they are maintained on the same device. **Work is underway with the PQES team to switch patients to a bioequivalent inhaler during Q1, please take this into account when ordering stock. Priority switches are below however a full list of planned switches can be found attached.**

Current inhaler	Cost-effective inhaler switch	Difference in price per inhaler
<u>Combination inhaler – ICS plus LABA (Beclometasone/Formoterol)</u>		
Fostair® 100/6 MDI	Proxor 100/6 MDI	£19.42
Fostair® 200/6 MDI	Proxor 200/6 MDI	£19.42
Luforbec® 100/6 MDI	Proxor 100/6 MDI	£4.08
Luforbec® 200/6 MDI	Proxor 200/6 MDI	£4.08

Are you aware of the NHS 24 NRT Referral pathway? During NHS 24 consultations, opportunistic NRT interventions may occur. Currently patients are advised/referred to speak to their Community Pharmacy and/or specialist quit your way service but no formal referral is made. From April 2026, NHS 24 will now ask the patient for a named pharmacy and will then notify the Community Pharmacy of this referral. NHS 24 hope by having a named referral point, this will encourage the patient to take up the referral and subsequently begin their quit journey. This process will be tested in NHS Lanarkshire before being rolled out across the rest of Scotland. If you missed a copy of the Community Pharmacy Lanarkshire QYW newsletter please find a copy here: <https://sway.cloud.microsoft/DPembLdqJzimC4Hc?ref=Link>

Do you know what PGDs are available via Optometrist? Or what ten conditions Optometrist prescribers can prescribe for? The next Lunch and Learn session will be on Ophthalmology, online via teams 10th June 12-1230. This session will be held by our NHS Lanarkshire Ophthalmology lead and is open to all members of the Pharmacy Team.

If you want to know more about red flag eye conditions or how community pharmacy and ophthalmology teams can work better together then please book to join. Perhaps one for your CPD... [Lunch & Learn – NHS Lanarkshire](#)

How can access to the ECS and Clinical Portal support safer clinical decision making? Pharmacist and Registered Pharmacy Technicians can apply for access to the Emergency Care Summary. This tool provides vital access to patient information which helps healthcare professionals to provide a safe and effective service, including information on repeat items and acutes. To access this tool please

email NHSLanarkshire.PharmacyFacilitation@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

Clinical Portal is a 'read only' platform that pulls data from other clinical systems. As such there is an ECS tab in portal itself which provides information on acute and repeat medications. Clinical portal also allows access to further patient details including e.g. renal function for Nitrofurantoin. Clinical Portal is currently available to IPs across Lanarkshire. To access this tool please

email NHSLanarkshire.PharmacyFacilitation@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk



April 2026	Lanarkshire
Number of times the ECS was accessed	1332
Number of Clinical Portal accounts	19
Number of times Clinical Portal was accessed	191
Number of users who didn't access Clinical Portal account	6

Are you aware of medicines that cause drowsiness and the risks of co-sleeping? Guidance in the BNF and BNFC, on medicines that cause drowsiness, has been updated to reflect learning from child death reviews. [BNF Cautionary and advisory labels](#) The following statement has been added to the BNF and BNFC *"Patients who are parents or carers of babies aged up to 12 months should be counselled on the risks of co-sleeping (sleeping with a baby on a bed, sofa, chair, etc.); for further information on safer sleeping and co-sleeping, see the Lullaby Trust at [Co-sleeping | The Lullaby Trust](#)".* The guidance now highlights the increased risk of co-sleeping with babies under 12 months when a parent or carer is affected by drowsy medicines, due to reduced responsiveness and a higher risk of sudden infant death syndrome. Pharmacists are encouraged to identify those who care for young babies (parents, other family members and carers) and provide safe-sleeping advice. This change strengthens opportunities to share life-saving safer sleep messages at the point of dispensing.

Are you recording Pharmacy First consultations accurately? Don't forget, the Pharmacy First service provides Advice, Treatment or Referral for individuals presenting with symptoms of a common clinical condition. The service should not be used to record a consultation following a patient who has forgotten to order a long term medication or for a patient who has a query on their currently prescribed medicines.

Have you seen the Health Improvement Scotland letter regarding private prescriptions for controlled drugs? Private prescriptions for schedule 2 & 3 CDs are explicitly prohibited from being electronically prescribed and supplied under all circumstances. Prescriptions must be written on PPCD(1) forms with a wet signature, retained by the pharmacy, and submitted to NSS to support lawful supply, monitoring and patient safety. Please see the attached update for further guidance.

Are you up to date with the West of Scotland Regional Formulary Chapters?

- The new **West of Scotland Regional formulary** website is now live and can be accessed via [this link](#).
- The first chapters, Gastro-intestinal and Respiratory, were launched on the site on Wednesday the 15th of April. Links to re-direct users to the new West of Scotland Regional formulary website are now included in the Lanarkshire formulary for the chapters that have launched.
- The 'NHS Scotland Formulary' mobile app provides access to the new West of Scotland Formulary. The app is available on NHS Lanarkshire managed work iPhone and Samsung smartphones and can be installed via Company Portal on iPhones, or through managed Google Play on Android devices. Otherwise, the app can be downloaded by searching for 'NHS Scotland Formulary' in the Apple or Google Play app stores.
- The remaining chapters which are not yet included in the regional formulary are still available on our [local formulary website](#) on the Right Decision Service site as normal.
- If you have any questions, please email medsguidance@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk.

Lanarkshire Formulary Updates

Chapter 4: Central Nervous System > Drugs Used in Substance Dependence > Alcohol Dependence

[Alcohol Dependence | Right Decisions](#)

Information pertaining to the ongoing supply issues with Chlordiazepoxide added.

**Community Pharmacy
NHS Lanarkshire
4th May Update**

Community Pharmacy Pilots

The Consultant Connect pilot has launched! Our pharmacy teams regularly use the P2P line during the OOHs period to support patients access to care...but what support is available to our teams and patients in hours? **Consultant Connect** is available in hours.

What is Consultant Connect?

Consultant Connect is a professional-to-professional advice line (not for public use) providing Community Pharmacists with direct access to a **senior clinical decision** maker during core hours. This is a **local line operated by clinicians in Lanarkshire**. This line is currently available to a number of healthcare professionals including GPs, Ambulance and Hospital at Home.

Why do we need Consultant Connect?

Better navigation of patients both in hours and out of hours reduces pressures on A&E departments, allowing them to focus their care on those that truly need it. Consultant Connect supports same-day patient navigation within the community and aims to improve patient flow while reducing avoidable pressure on A&E and NHS 24.

How does this differ from the P2P line?



Consultant Connect	P2P
Operates 8am – 6pm	Operates 6pm – 8am
Direct line to a clinician	Direct line to a non-clinical call handler
Outcome communicated directly during initial phone call unless further assessment needed, in which case the clinician will contact the patient directly within 1 hour	Non-clinical call handler transfer details to a dashboard. Dashboard actioned within two hours. Clinician calls the pharmacy back re outcome/further discussion. P2P may contact patient if specified.

When should I use Consultant Connect?

Similar to the P2P line, Consultant Connect can be used for when:

- A patient requires **same-day urgent care** that is not life threatening
- A patient falls out with a PGD
- A Pharmacist requires clinical advice to support Independent Prescribing
- A patient has been assessed by the CP as needing a **same day GP appointment** but no appointments are available and/or GP does not offer same day appointments. If the patient requires a routine and/or non-urgent appointment they should be directed to contact their own GP.
- A patient may have otherwise attended A&E for an non-life-threatening condition

What outcomes can I expect from Consultant Connect?

Outcomes will be determined by clinical need and may include advice, prescription, or onward referral as appropriate.

If further assessment is required:

- Consultant Connect will contact the patient directly within 1 hour
- The patient does not need to remain on the premises however they may need to return if a script is issued

When will Consultant Connect be rolled out?

The Consultant Connect pilot launched in May and is being piloted with 14 Community Pharmacy sites. We anticipate access to this line to be rolled out to the wider network over a 3 month period, starting with sites who have higher referral data.

Is there any support materials available?

We are hoping to produce a leaflet shortly however in the meantime why not hear from the FNC team

directly <https://vimeo.com/1122156678/414845bbee?fl=pl&fe=sh>

Are you aware of the NHS Lanarkshire Buvidal

pilot? Congratulations to all of our pharmacy teams that have completed their Buvidal Administration training. The NHS Lanarkshire Buvidal pilot is now live, a number of patients will begin to transfer from the specialist service to community pharmacy for their administration. We hope to begin service evaluation in October.

Pharmacy First Plus – January 26

How many appointments did Pharmacy First Plus save in January?

Of the 114 prescribers on the boards IP tracker, 87 were active in January, with 2449 items issued by our prescribers! High volume of appointments saved, with patients accessing care closer to home!

What about the inactive prescribers? Email enquiries have gone to the 27 inactive prescribers to query further/what support is required, a number have responded that they have left the board. **Please remember you must notify the board if you are moving to another site within the board or leaving the healthboard completely:**

- If you are moving to another CP site within Lanarkshire your pads can be kept, if you are moving to another sector or healthboard, pads must be destroyed. Destruction can be done by returning pads to Pharmacy Admin or an email from your line manager confirming pads have been destroyed on site (shredded and put into confidential waste).
- Any items written on your pads are charged to NHS Lanarkshire, a number of prescribers had moved to GGC but were still using their Lanarkshire pads and so charging GGC items to Lanarkshire. **IP pads are issued for Lanarkshire use only.**
- Unless board or PSD are notified that you have left the post, the site continues to get the £3000 PF+ base payment.

How many prescribers have not completed their training? Of the 114 prescribers on the boards IP tracker, 29 post 2019 prescribers have not completed the training as stipulated within PCA.

If you were NES funded from 2019, your clinical skills days and teach and treat session has been included in your funding and so you must take up these days, see more from Community Pharmacy

Scotland. [Teach & Treat Opportunities | Community Pharmacy Scotland](#)

If you were self-funded, you will need to contact CPS to be put on their waiting list. If you are already on their waiting list, please let us know and we can update the IP tracker to reflect this.

Exciting news for CP sites across NHS Lanarkshire! A new teach and treat site has gone live!! North Road Pharmacy, Bellshill, has joined the Teach and Treat Hubs, offering an additional opportunity for newly qualified Community Pharmacy Prescribing Pharmacists to complete their learning NES pathway and build confidence as independent

prescribing practitioners. The hub provides a supportive, learner-led environment where prescribing pharmacists can attend a Teach & Treat session, tailored to the learner's individual development needs, across a range of common clinical conditions routinely managed in community pharmacy. **Teaching sessions will be available at weekends (Saturdays and Sundays)** and will cover conditions such as ear, throat, chest and sinus infections, mild skin infections, and oral thrush. Sundays in particular offer valuable exposure to diagnosing a wide variety of minor conditions while working closely with Out of Hours services. [Teach and Treat Session Community Pharmacy Independent Prescribers | Community Pharmacy Scotland](#)

West Region Formulary

The new West of Scotland Regional Formulary officially launched on 15 April 2026, marking a major step forward in how formulary guidance is presented and accessed across the region. The first live chapters cover Gastrointestinal and Respiratory conditions, with further chapters planned for rollout every two months.

Unlike traditional BNF style lists, the new formulary uses a condition based structure, aligning medicine choices directly with patient care pathways. Clear sections highlight Adult, Child and Pharmacy First recommendations, making it quicker and easier for staff to find clinically relevant guidance.

The formulary is available via a new website at formulary.nhs.scot/west, featuring intuitive navigation, a smart search function, and quick links to resources such as the BNF, SPCs and SMC advice. Access is also available through the NHS Scotland Formulary mobile app, which can be used offline.

Local formularies remain available for chapters not yet launched regionally.

The newsletter attached includes a link to a short user guide, which introduces the new website layout and features.

If anyone has any questions on the development process or anything else, please feel free to get in touch at medsguidance@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

Ad hoc updates

Are you booked to attend the upcoming Lunch and Learn session? If you would like to attend a NHS Lanarkshire Community Pharmacy Lunch and Learn session on Palliative Care this May, please use the below booking link:

May 12th – Palliative Care – [Click here to Book](#)

June 10th – Ophthalmology [Click here to Book](#)

Do you have patients on Carvedilol 3.125mg or 6.25mg? We have had an increase number of patients recently accessing the acute service for supply of the above medicine. We are aware there are ongoing supply issues via AAH and Alliance however have been advised that stock still remains available across other wholesalers like Phoenix. Please explore all options/wholesalers available to you.

Do you have a query about a patients medication or change (/ MDS Change form) in medication? Please remember if you have a query about a patients medicines, including any changes, these should be directed to the GP Practice, if appropriate the GP will action or transfer you to the most appropriate person to action.

Are you following the ULM (unlicensed medicines) process? Don't forget the ULM process was revised in July 2025 with ULM Authorisation forms also updated. Please remember if there is a licensed alternative available please liaise with the prescriber. Updated processes and paperwork can be found [Specials/ULMs Authorisation – NHS Lanarkshire](#)

Are you attending the CPS ask me anything webinar? CPS will be hosting an Ask Me Anything on the topic of Unscheduled Care in Community Pharmacy in Scotland on Thursday 28th May 2026 from 19:30 to 20:30. There have been many changes to Unscheduled Care over the years for community pharmacy, therefore we believe it is important to refresh you and your team members with information on the topic, ask any questions that you may have, and hear best practices from your peers. [Unscheduled Care AMA for Community Pharmacy | Community Pharmacy Scotland](#)