

Community Pharmacy NHS Lanarkshire 23rd February Update

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. Attached is a copy of the referral you will receive to your NHS mailbox. This process will be tested in NHS Lanarkshire before being rolled out across the rest of Scotland.

A reminder of the Co-codamol messaging that was shared with Community Pharmacies on the 12th of Feb. As we continue to experience intermittent stock of co-codamol across the UK, it's crucial that Acute, Primary Care, and Community Pharmacies are aligned in communicating the same message to patients. As you know, there are currently 45,000 patients on co-codamol within NHS Lanarkshire and while some pharmacies may have stock available at the moment, this is based on current usage, not board-wide forecasts. The Scottish Government issued a Level 3 impact alert for medicine access several weeks ago and this alert remains unchanged at Level 3. Primary Care colleagues are actively reviewing patient lists, with a focus on assessing individuals who may require dose reductions, tapering, or discontinuation, especially in cases of infrequent use. We kindly ask that you remain transparent with patients regarding the situation, although stock is available at some sites, there are no guarantees that these sites can meet the full needs of the board, for the full period of the MSAN. There is therefore still a risk of limited/no stock availability. **Please avoid informing patients that there is no shortage as this can lead to mixed messages and confusion.**

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](#)

Are you looking to support an FTY trainee for 2027? As part of the preparations for the recruitment process for the summer 2027 intake of FTY trainee pharmacists, NES are now seeking expressions of interest from training providers who would like to participate in the process. [NES Foundation Training Year \(FTY\) Recruitment for the 2027/28 | Community Pharmacy Scotland](#)

Are you aware of the Community Pharmacy CD incident trends for 2025?

Attached is a summary of drugs involved in various CD incidents across NHS Lanarkshire for 2025. In addition to the attached summary, there were 6 non CD incidents reported on inphase for Q3 of 2025. Of these 6 incidents, 5 involved MCAs.

- Two incidents involved quantity errors i.e. there were additional items within an evening MCA slot.
- Three incidents involved change forms not being actioned. Please review any MCA SOPs in place which include actioning changes to MCAs, this should include the use of change forms.

Did you see the Pharmaceutical Journal article on OTCs being purchased by children as young as 13 years?

More than 1 in 10 13 year olds have bought OTC meds, mainly paracetamol, ibuprofen and antihistamines. The report also discussed accessing prescribed meds online. While we appreciate these meds can be purchased in retail units despite age restrictions for medication in place, please ensure all staff are aware of any local policies/SOPs, including for individuals who may be presenting for Pharmacy First. Separate to the PJ article, there are concerns re paracetamol overdose risk within the younger population.

Are you using the most up to date Gluten Free Formulary? The updated version of the Gluten Free Food Formulary was approved at ADTC, February 2026, and is published on the Community Pharmacy website. Please find a copy attached. The updates are minor, and there are no additions to the formulary. The updates include updating the listed name of certain products and also removing discontinued products. Don't forget, each patient registered for the service must have a pharmacist-led annual health check. This health check assesses dietary adherence, control of symptoms, weight and height, and any concerns the patient may wish to discuss. It also provides an opportunity to verify unit entitlement or identify changes, such as pregnancy or movement into a different age bracket, which may require adjustments to the monthly allocated unit quantity. The annual health check must be recorded in the PCR. This review is particularly important as the service is supporting the management of a long-term condition, that relies on adhering to lifestyle adaptations, thus reducing complications and supporting self-management.

Do you have a Clinical Portal or ECS account? The below table outlines the number of times the ECS/Clinical Portal was accessed across Community Pharmacy Lanarkshire for the month of January. If you would like to request an ECS (available to Pharmacy Techs, Pharmacist, Locums) or Clinical Portal (available to IPs) account please email:

NHSLanarkshire.PharmacyFacilitation@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

January 2026	Lanarkshire
Number of times the ECS was accessed	933
Number of Clinical Portal accounts	14
Number of times Clinical Portal was accessed	118
Number of users who didn't access Clinical Portal account	4

In case you missed it.... CPS joined BBC to discuss the co-codamol shortage.
 A recording is available via [Gordon Winter Talks Co-codamol on BBC Radio Scotland | Community Pharmacy Scotland](#)

Community Pharmacy NHS Lanarkshire 9th February Update

The Professional – Professional line is not an emergency line.... There has been an increase in the number of patients who have been seen in a Community setting however have been inappropriately referred to the P2P line instead of A&E. A recent example over the festive period included an individual who presented to the CP and was assessed by the CP as having O2 levels of 82%. The patients details were subsequently shared by the CP team to the P2P call handler. P2P calls are then put onto a dashboard by the non-clinical call handler with a call back time of up to 2 hours from a healthcare professional. This means it could be 2 hours before a breathless individual with O2 levels of 82% is spoken to. **Patients with life threatening conditions (for example anaphylaxis, hypoxia & cardiac chest pains) should have an ambulance called or be directed to the nearest Emergency Department depending on the condition in question.** Please note the P2P also never dispense Methadone / Buprenorphine or similar Addiction Team substitution drugs. They will also not prescribe a drug their own GP has refused to prescribe or private clinic drugs. The OOHs Pharmacy Information sheet is attached again for awareness.

Have you seen the updated Community Pharmacy CD webpage?
 Updated copies of the following are now available on the [NHS Lanarkshire CP webpage](#). Please ensure you are using these updated forms:

- NHS Scotland CD incident Reporting Form
- CD destruction request form

Have you booked to attend the next Community Pharmacy Lunch and Learn session? The next Lunch and Learn session will be on Palliative Care, online via teams 24th Feb 12-1230. [The booking](#) link has now been fixed. This session will be held by our NHS Lanarkshire Palliative Care Lead and is open to all members of the Pharmacy Team. Whether you want to know more about the community palliative network, the use of medicines in palliative care & associated symptoms or what support is available to patients, families and carers then please book to join. Perhaps one for your CPD...

****For Awareness** Fraudulent Private Prescriptions for Codeine Linctus...** There have been recent reports in England of fraudulent private prescriptions being presented for Codeine Linctus. Please remain vigilant for suspected fraudulent private prescriptions for this and other medicines with abuse potential. Always ensure that a private prescriber is appropriately registered and consider contacting the issuing clinic directly to confirm that a prescription is genuine. Be aware that contact details printed on a fraudulent prescription, including telephone numbers, may also be false, so verify these independently using reliable sources.

Do you know when Ulipristal may be affected by progestogen? During a recent review of the national EHC service, it was agreed that a specific practice point around the use of Ulipristal should be highlighted. The key information is as follows, with further detail available in the [NES TURAS training package for EHC](#) and on [NICE CKS](#) here.

Effectiveness of Ulipristal Acetate (UPA) may be reduced if:

- A progestogen is taken in the 5 days after taking UPA
- A progestogen has been taken in the 7 days prior to taking UPA
- Note that some longer-acting contraceptives contain progestogen (e.g. implants)

**** Exciting news to NHS Lanarkshire....A new Teach & Treat sites is coming! Information to follow in the next CP update****

Are you up to date with the Pharmacy First rejected items? CPS have compiled a list of the top 25 most common pharmacy first rejected items here for review. The most common reasons for rejected items on pharmacy first are:

- POM packs being dispensed or selected on the PMR which are not on the approved list
- Dressings claimed from boxes on the PMR instead of singles (only singles are listed on the approved list)

For full details of PF Rejected items please see: [Top 25 Pharmacy First Rejected Items: What to Know | Community Pharmacy Scotland](#)

Is your Public Health poster up to date? Current: w/c 13th Jan until w/c 17th Feb inclusive - Mind to Mind. Next: w/c 24th Feb until w/c 24th March inclusive - Re Think Dementia. Here is a list of the next 3 months of [PHS poster campaigns](#)

Looking back on Pharmacy First....As we await the last quarter of 2025 data lets reflect on NHS Lanarkshire 2024 Pharmacy First Activity....please note Approx. GP appointments saved is based on PGD POMs and PF+ activity. Huge volume of activity and excited to share the 2025 data shortly. NHSL sat slightly higher than the Scottish Average for PF Referrals in 2024 & sat around the Scottish Average for Hayfever, Impetigo and Skin Infection.



The following updates have been made to the NHS Lanarkshire Joint Adult Formulary:

Chapter 6: Endocrine System > Drugs Used in Diabetes > Antidiabetic Drugs > Glucagon-Like Peptide-1 Receptor Agonists (ORAL)

[Antidiabetic Drugs | Right Decisions](#)

Information added where Rybelsus® is listed in relation to the risk of medication error due to the introduction of a new formulation with increased bioavailability, as per [MHRA Drug Safety Update \(December 2025\)](#).

Chapter 6: Endocrine System > Drugs Used in Diabetes > Insulins > Long Acting Insulins

[Insulins | Right Decisions](#)

Information on the discontinuation of Levemir® insulin, in both its Penfill® and Flexpen® presentations, updated to include a link to the [NHSL Medicine Shortages page](#).

Please note:

NHS Lanarkshire formulary, guidelines and other documents held on the Right Decisions Service (RDS) should be navigated to within the RDS website. Searching for documents via external search engines e.g. Google may inadvertently result in out-of-date documents being accessed. The Lanarkshire RDS site can be found [here](#).

The NHS Lanarkshire Joint Adult Formulary can be found within the [Medicines Guidance Toolkit](#) on the RDS website. Toolkits are always available for downloading via the RDS app even if the RDS website is offline. App users should make sure they have the most recent version (v4.7.1 or above) to ensure that

the formulary is accessible in the event of a website outage. Formulary updates will be made live on the app when accessing the toolkit with an active internet connection.

The Vision Formulary and Drug Dictionary shall be updated to reflect these formulary amendments. Lanarkshire practices using Vision will be notified when these updated versions are available for downloading.
