

Community Pharmacy NHS Lanarkshire 9th March Update

****Next CP update will be the 7th of April. Anything urgent will be sent to the CP clinical mailbox directly****

Is your ECS account closing on the 31st of March? As we move away from pandemic ECS accounts to individual accounts, please note **a number of site ECS accounts will be closing on the 31st of March**. Please keep an eye out for any emails from the NHS Lanarkshire Pharmacy Facilitation team and action appropriately. If you would like to request an ECS account (available to Pharmacy Techs, Pharmacist, Locums) or a Clinical Portal (available to IPs) account please email: NHSLanarkshire.PharmacyFacilitation@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

Have you notified the board whether you are open / closed for the Easter bank holidays? Primary Care services shared an email to all CPs clinical mailboxes re 2026-27 bank holidays. The deadline to complete the Survey Monkey was Friday the 6th. Please also find attached a bank holiday checklist including comms from the OOHs team re the professional – professional line.

Are you aware of the role Community Pharmacies play in reducing Drug Related Deaths? Duncan Hill will be running our Lunch and Learn session tomorrow on drugs currently involved in DRDs, the CPs role is reducing DRDs as well as what the OST package of care that our CP teams deliver daily should incur.

March 10th – Harm Reduction – [Click here to Book](#)

April 21st– Contraception – [Click here to Book](#)

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

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

Do you know what to do when a patient returns sharps to the pharmacy?

Please remember Community Pharmacies cannot accept sharps waste from patients, with the exception of our IEP sites for returning sharps kits. All other patient returned sharps should be signposted to designated NHS sites. A list of sharps sites is attached.

Are you an independent prescriber? Please see attached IP newsletter for March 2026 which covers October 2025 prescribing. Please note, 15% of our IPs have not yet completed their training as outlined within the Pharmacy First Plus PCA. Including a teach and treat site. Don't forget, 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](#)

Have you signed your PGDs? Registered Healthcare Professionals are covered under a PGD as soon as they accept the professional obligations when signing, while there is no regulatory or legal requirement for copies of the signed sheets to be submitted to the Board, it is recommended that Boards keep a list of the Registered Healthcare Professionals that are operating under a Patient Group Direction(s). In place of submitting signed sheets to the board, NHS Lanarkshire now has an e-form available for Community Pharmacy Registered Healthcare Professionals to notify boards of PGD sign up. This does not replace any local processes your employer may have in regard to signing PGDs/keeping signed copies on premises. [Patient Group Directions – NHS Lanarkshire](#)

Are you delivering the Hep C service? Don't forget, as part of this service you should be completing a running balance sheet for each patient to help track compliance to treatment. A copy is sent out by the BBV team on patient initiation.

Have you seen prescriptions for paracetamol and co-codamol? While we are aware CPs still have access to co-codamol stock, as a Board, we have a comparatively higher rate of opioid prescribing, and in some areas this does not align with the SIGN guidance published in December 2025 regarding the use of long-term opioids in pain management. Our Primary Care teams are therefore actively undertaking polypharmacy reviews with a focus on co-codamol. Please be aware that some patients who are being tapered off of co-codamol have been issued with paracetamol scripts. This supply is to support any pain management while omitting their co-codamol dose.

Have you submitted all claims for the 2025/26 financial year? As we are rapidly approaching the end of financial year 2025/26, this is a reminder to submit any outstanding claim forms for NHS Lanarkshire local services before Friday 3rd April. Claim forms can be found via [Claims Forms – NHS Lanarkshire](#)

Do you know how to identify opportunities to initiate behaviour change conversations? NES are hosting a Behavioural Changes webinar on March 18th. This webinar will explore how behaviour-change approaches can strengthen pharmacy practice across Scotland. With the growing emphasis on person-centred care, pharmacy teams are increasingly supporting patients to make meaningful

lifestyle changes that improve health and wellbeing. This session introduces the NHS Education for Scotland MAP of Behaviour Change model and key Behaviour Change Techniques (BCTs), helping pharmacy professionals recognise opportunities for behaviour-change conversations and embed practical, evidence-based strategies into everyday consultations. Join us for an engaging and practical webinar on **Wednesday 18 March from 7pm to 8.30pm** and book your place using the following link: [Behavioural Change in Healthcare Webinar](#)

Want to upskill on child and/or adult support and protection? Please find attached leaflet from the Public Protection team detailing some upcoming courses on Child Protection and Adult Support and Protection. If you wish to attend but can't access the link within the leaflet you can Telephone: 01698 753742 and speak to either Kieran or Ewalina to register.

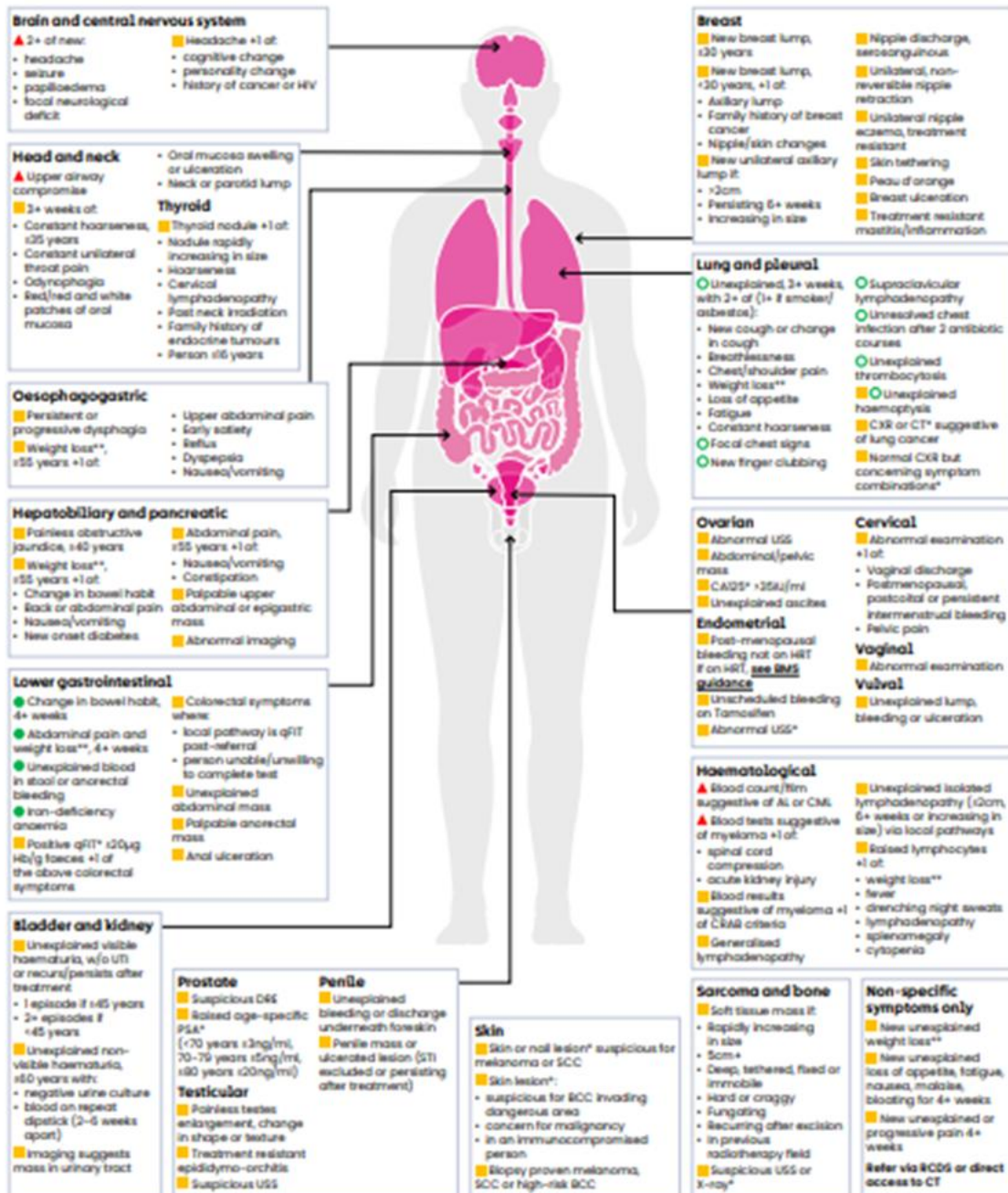
Are you aware of the NHS 24 NRT Referral pathway? During NHS 24 consultations, opportunistic NRT interventions may occur. Currently patients are advised/referred to speak to their Community Pharmacy and/or specialist quit your way service but no formal referral is made. From April 2026, NHS 24 will now 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.

Do you know the signs and symptoms for suspected cancer? Please see below, a one-page infographic that captures agreed signs and symptoms that warrant further investigation. Digital copy available via [Scottish Referral Guidelines for Suspected Cancer | Community Pharmacy Scotland](#)

Scottish Referral Guidelines for Suspected Cancer



▲ Emergency/same-day referral ■ Urgent suspicion of cancer referral Investigation: ● qRT ○ CXR



August 2025

Adults only. Scotland only.

* Check the SBG for symptoms which warrant investigations

** Unintentional loss of >5% of body weight or strong clinical suspicion

Visit cruk.org/referral-guidelines-sbg

Glossary

AL: Acute leukaemia

BCC: Basal cell carcinoma

CML: Chronic myeloid leukaemia

CRAB: Raised calcium, renal impairment, anaemia, bone pain

CXR: Chest x-ray

DRE: Digital rectal examination

HRT: Hormone replacement therapy

PSA: Prostate-specific antigen

qRT: Quantitative faecal immunochemical test

SCC: Squamous cell carcinoma

RCDS: Rapid cancer diagnostic service

SCC: Squamous cell carcinoma

STI: Sexually transmitted infection

USS: Ultrasound scan

UTI: Urinary tract infection

[Please see the NHS Lanarkshire Formulary updates below](#)

Chapter 3: Respiratory System > Antihistamines, Hyposensitisation and Allergic Emergencies > Allergic Emergencies

[Antihistamines, Hyposensitisation and Allergic Emergencies | Right Decisions](#)

Discontinuation information relating to EMERADE® auto-injectors updated.

Chapter 3: Respiratory System

[Chapter 3. Respiratory System | Right Decisions](#)

This formulary section has been updated in line with updates to the NHS Lanarkshire guideline "[Pharmacological Management of Adult Asthma in Primary & Secondary Care](#)". This includes the addition of Proxor® and Fobumix® inhalers and removal of Luforbec® inhaler. Trimbow® 87micrograms/dose / 5micrograms/dose / 9micrograms/dose inhaler is now listed as an S1 formulary option.

Chapter 4: Central Nervous System > Analgesics

[Analgesics | Right Decisions](#)

Links to the [NHSL Medicines Shortage page](#) added to the Prescribing Notes for co-codamol.

Chapter 13: Skin > Anti-Infective Skin Preparations > Antibacterial Preparations Total List

[Anti-Infective Skin Preparations | Right Decisions](#)

Removal of sulfadiazine silver (Flamazine®) 1% cream as this product has been discontinued.

Chapter 13 Skin > Acne and Rosacea > Acne > Oral Retinoids

[Acne | Right Decisions](#)

Updates to Prescribing Notes in line with updated [MHRA Drug Safety Update 'Isotretinoin – changes to prescribing guidance and additional risk minimisation measures'](#), January 2026.

Chapter 16 Gluten Free Food

[Gluten Free Food Service – NHS Lanarkshire](#)

Minor updates to Gluten Free Food formulary which includes updating the listed name of certain products and the removal of discontinued products.

Chapter 19: Wound Management

[Chapter 19. Wound Management | Right Decisions](#)

Specific sizes of dressings which have been discontinued removed.

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.