

Community Pharmacy NHS Lanarkshire 29th December Update

Are you prepared for the Festive Hours closures? Please see attached guidance from the OOHs team detailing areas they can/can't support in as well as information they need you to provide during your P2P call. Attached is also a list of pharmacies opened over the festive period, with some early closures on Christmas Eve and Hogmanay. Please ensure you sign post patients to their nearest opening over the festive period.

Do all (eligible) staff members who are covering the festive period have access to ECS and the Clinical Mailbox? If you require access to ECS, as an individual account or Covid Store account, or a NHS clinical mailbox, please contact NHSLanarkshire.PharmacyFacilitation@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

Are you an independent prescriber or thinking of undertaking an IP course? Please see attached December newsletters which covers the month of July's IP prescribing including items prescribed to consider further e.g. CDs, travel vaccines, mounjaro

Have you seen the update to Supervision changes with bagged & checked medicines? From the **7th of January 2026**, pharmacists will be able to authorise - when absent or treated as absent - the handing out of checked and bagged prescriptions. Click on the hyperlink for more information; [Supervision changes: Bagged & Checked Medication | Community Pharmacy Scotland](#)

Are you thinking about undertaking an IP course? CPS are currently reviewing their budget for funding NES IP places going forward. Please complete the 2min [CPS survey](#) if you are a CP Employee Pharmacist and...

- You have still to undertake CPIP Training and want to do so.
- You do not plan to undertake CPIP Training. Please note this is not a formal commitment, but is required to determine current numbers.
- You have previously accessed NES funding but did not complete your IP Training. This may have been in a previous role. Please note that the current NHS policy of each pharmacist being funded for IP training only once still stands. However, we want to understand how many employees are in this position before we can assess any other possible options.

If you would like to also be added to the boards IP waiting list please get in touch.

Have you seen the Prescribing notes newsletter for December? Attached newsletter covers Antibiotic prescribing in respiratory infections, management of community sharps containers, GP10A stock order forms and some NHSL formulary updates.

Community Pharmacy NHS Lanarkshire 15th December Update

Are you prepared for the Festive Hours closures? Please see attached guidance from the OOHs team detailing areas they can/can't support in as well as information they need you to provide during your P2P call. Attached is also a list of pharmacies opened over the festive period, with some early closures on Christmas Eve and Hogmanay. Please ensure you sign post patients to their nearest opening over the festive period.

Are you aware the Creon ULM process is still on hold? As you are aware, due to the Creon shortages no authorisation was required for specials for Creon until the end of December 2025. Due to the ongoing supply issues this has been extended until the end of June 2026. Community pharmacies are asked to source the most cost effective supply available.

Are you receiving change forms from the Pharmacotherapy hubs? There have been two additions to the change forms, 1) the date of discharge of the patient if applicable 2) if you received the change form in error i.e. is not one of your patients, please notify the sender. Please also remember we have agreement with our pharmacotherapy hubs to use the change forms, we cannot compel independent contractors to undertake this task. Please remember these forms are not legally binding documents and should not delay or impede the timely implementation of necessary medication changes, we will continue to encourage their use but cannot mandate. We will be reaching out after the festive period to both our Community Pharmacy teams and Pharmacotherapy teams for feedback on their implementation.

Are your teams up to date with common eye conditions and red flags? A recent article in the Pharmaceutical Journal, [Identification and management of common eye disorders - The Pharmaceutical Journal](#) provides a handy summary of common eye conditions and red flag referrals. After reading the article, you should be able to:

- Understand the basic physiology of the eye and common causes of eye disorders;
- Identify red-flag symptoms that require urgent referral to an ophthalmologist;
- Recognise and differentiate between common eye disorders, such as blepharitis, styes and conjunctivitis;
- Provide effective patient counselling and support for managing eye disorders

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 **November 2025**. If you would like to request an ECS or Clinical Portal account please email:

NHSLanarkshire.PharmacyFacilitation@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

Number of times the ECS was accessed	680
Number of Clinical Portal accounts	13
Number of times Clinical Portal was accessed	57
Number of users who didn't access Clinical Portal account	6

Missed one of the NES webinars? You can now access recordings of key sessions—including the following recent webinars:

- [Asthma Management \(10 September 2025\)](#)
- [Developing Confidence and Effectiveness in Research and Evaluation \(1 October 2025\)](#)
- [Cancer Care for Pharmacy Teams \(28 October 2025\)](#)

These are all on the [Webinar Recordings page](#) on Turas Learn.

Are you aware of the National Pharmacy Workforce Forum? You may be aware that the National Pharmacy Workforce Forum (NPWF) has been formed over the past year. Now established, it is beginning to make progress with the prioritised pharmacy workforce commissions. Background information and future outputs will be updated on the [Turas Learn National Pharmacy Workforce pages](#). Pharmacy Workforce newsletter attached.

Community Pharmacy NHS Lanarkshire 1st December Update

Are you a Community Pharmacist locum? Please see [PVG Requirements for Locum Pharmacists | Community Pharmacy Scotland](#) detailing it is a legal requirement for you to have a PVG in order to take on work as a pharmacist, with each pharmacy business engaging their services listed as an interested party.







Are you aware of the acute winter planning for MCAs? It was discussed and agreed at the recent Area Pharmaceutical Committee that all three acute sites would provide where possible, for patients discharged between the 22nd and 31st of December, double MCAs on discharge.

Do all (eligible) staff members who are covering the festive period have access to ECS? If you require access to ECS, as an individual account or Covid Store account, please contact NHSLanarkshire.PharmacyFacilitation@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

Are you aware of the GLP-1 safety concerns? Healthcare Improvement Scotland have identified growing concerns from clinicians, regulators, and public health professionals on the use of GLP-1 receptor agonists. This bulletin summarises the key safety issues emerging in Scotland and provides recommendations from HIS to support the safe use of these medicines GLP [Safety briefing: GLP-1 receptor agonists – safety signals: October 2025 – Healthcare Improvement Scotland](#). Please note a neighbouring board has also recently reported two thefts in store, namely Mounjaro, please consider the security of these medicines & any associated keys.

Have you seen the rejected items update? Since the implementation of nDCVP in 2023 there has been no visibility on rejected items via the eSchedules for CPs or the team at CPS. Work has been ongoing at NSS to fix this issue and reporting of these items is expected soon. More information can be found via; [Rejected Items Reporting | Community Pharmacy Scotland](#)

Do you have a patient on Rybelsus? Are you aware of the Rybelsus formulation change/bioavailability? The purpose of the communication is to notify healthcare professionals (HCPs) of a change in formulation of Rybelsus. Rybelsus tablets will be replaced with a new formulation with increased bioavailability, which is bioequivalent to the initial formulation. Here is the Hyperlink to the [Direct Healthcare Professional Communication](#) noted in the screenshot, and the [Patient Transition Guide](#), both produced by the manufacturer of Rybelsus. NHS Lanarkshire Formulary to be updated shortly.

Primary packaging: New formulation blisters are silver both on the front and back and are smaller compared to blisters with the initial formulation	Initial formulation
	<div> <div>Rybelsus® 3 mg</div>  </div> <div> <div>Rybelsus® 7 mg</div>  </div> <div> <div>Rybelsus® 14 mg</div>  </div>
	New formulation
	<div> <div>Rybelsus® 1.5 mg</div>  </div> <div> <div>Rybelsus® 4 mg</div>  </div> <div> <div>Rybelsus® 9 mg</div>  </div>

Please see the NHS Lanarkshire Formulary updates below, noting Freestyle 3 will be removed at the end of the year and replaced with Freestyle 3 Plus. Please take into consideration when ordering new stock. Freestyle 2 Plus is still formulary choice.

Chapter 6: Endocrine System > Diagnostic and Monitoring Agents for Diabetes > Home Glucose Monitoring > Continuous Glucose Monitoring with Hybrid Closed Loop Insulin Pumps

Home Glucose Monitoring | Right Decisions

Additon of FreeStyle Libre® 3 Plus to replace FreeStyle Libre® 3.

Chapter 6: Endocrine System > Diagnostic and Monitoring > Hypodermic Equipment > Safety Pen Needles: Health Care Professional Administration of Insulin

Hypodermic Equipment | Right Decisions

Minor amendment to prescribing notes for Microdot® Max Safety Needle, highlighting that this is the formulary choice safety pen needle for prescribing in primary care.

Chapter 7: Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Urinary-Tract Disorders > Drugs for Genito-Urinary Disorders > Drugs for Urinary Frequency, Enuresis and Incontinence > Beta3-Adrenoceptor Agonists

Drugs for Urinary Frequency, Enuresis and Incontinence | Right Decisions

Addition of Vibegron to the formulary as a Total list option.

Chapter 12: Ear, Nose and Oropharynx > Drugs Acting on the Oropharynx > Oropharyngeal Anti-Infective Drugs

Drugs Acting on the Oropharynx | Right Decisions

Out of stock information updated in this section.

Chapter 20: Stoma Care > Solidifying Agent

Chapter 20. Stoma Care | Right Decisions

Discontinued products removed. Solidifying agents now categorised as non-formulary in NHS Lanarkshire.

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.