

Date 4th September 2025

**ALL COMMUNITY PHARMACY
CONTRACTORS IN NHS LANARKSHIRE
PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL LOCUMS
AND SUPPORT STAFF AS NECESSARY**

Dear Community Pharmacy Colleagues,

AREA PHARMACEUTICAL COMMITTEE: MEDICINES ABOVE DRUG TARIFF

The Area Pharmaceutical Committee (APC), which includes representatives from the Community Pharmacy Lanarkshire Committee, Primary Care, Education & Training, and the Acute Sector, recently discussed the impact of medicines priced above the drug tariff is having on patients. It was agreed by the APC that Scotland's existing agreed shortage process should be followed and would be recirculated to both Primary Care and Community Pharmacy Contractors.

The Scottish Shortage Reporter can be used to report problems in obtaining medicines, including generic items priced above the Scottish Drug Tariff part 7, non-part 7 items and branded medicines. The feedback given via this reporter is sent daily to the relevant department at Scottish Government regarding availability and pricing, it is therefore important that all Community Pharmacy teams engage in the process outlined in the Community Pharmacy Scotland & Primary Care Community Pharmacy Group [Medicines Shortages Guidance](#):

- 1. Ensure continuity of care to the patient**
- 2. Collect pricing information from your supplier**
- 3. Submit information via the CPS [Shortage Reporter](#)**

The more engagement with the process the better, as this forms part of the evidence that CPS needs when applying for adjusted prices and they are generally successful where the evidence is overwhelming, though there are no guarantees.

As outlined within the guidance, after supplying the medicine, the contractor should keep an eye on the Adjusted Prices App so you can make a judgement as to when you wish to submit the prescription so as to minimise or eliminate any potential loss made. Shortage notification emails are sent twice a month to those who have subscribed to email notifications. To sign up to the Community Pharmacy Shortage notifications please sign up via Community Pharmacy Scotland; [Shortage Notification](#). Adjusted prices, if granted, apply for the whole month – so any prescriptions submitted for pricing at the end of the month will be paid at the adjusted price.

Yours sincerely,

John McMillan
Chair of Area Pharmaceutical Forum
Advanced Clinical Pharmacist

Khuram Akram
Vice Chair of Area Pharmaceutical Forum
Community Pharmacy Contractor

Ellen Jo Fowler
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Community Pharmacy Services