

## Community Pharmacy NHS Lanarkshire 28<sup>th</sup> July Update

**Do you know what support is available to Community Pharmacies/patients during the OOHs period? Do you want to enhance your clinical decision making skills?** Join the Community Pharmacy OOHs **in person** event, at the Douglas Street Community Health Clinic in Hamilton, **hosted by the Out of Hours Teams**. The session aims to support Community Pharmacists navigating the challenges of the out of hours period & improve collaboration with OOH peers. [Click here](#) to book onto the in person event, August 28<sup>th</sup> 7-9pm.

**Thinking of undertaking an IP course? Recently qualified or currently undertaking an IP course?** Come along to our Introduction to Pharmacy First Plus **online webinar, hosted by the Lead Pharmacist for Community Pharmacy services**. The session will outline the service specification, training, indemnity insurance and how to order pads when you run out. We will also have a look at some of the conditions and resources available to help with your clinical decision making and there will be an opportunity to have a look at some of our prescribers current prescribing. This will be an informal session, stay for the full session or just drop in for a question! [Click here](#) to book onto the session (August 20<sup>th</sup> 1-2pm).

**Are you an Independent Prescriber or looking to undertake an IP course?** Please see attached the *Pharmacy First Plus - July Newsletter* which provides an overview of our CPIPs prescribing activity in February. If you would like to attend a Community Pharmacy **online IP Peer Review** for Q4 and Q1 prescribing, **hosted by the Lead Pharmacist for Community Pharmacy services**, please book via [Microsoft Teams](#) (October 8<sup>th</sup> 7-8pm)

**Do you know what to do if a patient presents with a sore throat? Or advised you that they have a throat infection?** Please remember that 85-95% of adult sore throats are viral and therefore can be managed in any community setting i.e. does not require an independent prescriber to support. If you have local agreement to refer patients to a local Pharmacy First Plus site when outwith standard PF, please ensure you are first undertaking the initial consultation to assess whether the throat infection is viral before referring on for suspected bacterial. Products to support viral throat infection may include; Paracetamol, Ibuprofen, Lozenges, Antiseptic Sprays/rinses.

**Do you know what action you should be taking during the Abidec shortage?** Please see attached weekly shortage bulletin W/C 14/7/25 advising that Community pharmacists should:

- reserve Dalivit® oral drops for dispensing on receipt of a prescription only; and
- advise and inform parent(s)/carer(s) and customers of alternative food supplements that are available over the counter (see Supporting information including the Neonatal & Paediatric Pharmacists Group (NPPG) Table of Liquid Vitamin and Iron Supplements in Neonates and Children).

**Thank you to Airdrie & Bellshill!** Thank you to all of the Pharmacy Teams in the Airdrie/Bellshill locality over June & July, for hosting the Lead Pharmacist for Community Pharmacy services. An invite will be sent shortly to the Camglen & Clydesdale pharmacy teams for August/September. There were lots of positive discussions and interactions with the teams & it was great to observe the relationships with the local community. There were a number of areas raised during the June/July visits including use of change forms, barcodes & NRT reporting, which are currently under review / going through various governance groups. Outcomes will be communicated out shortly.

**Do you know which Lorazepam brands can be used for sublingual administration?** Lorazepam is used in palliative care to manage anxiety and panic which are common features of severe breathlessness. Most patients are able to control their symptoms with a 500microgram dose placed under the tongue, 4 to 6 hourly as needed. The sublingual route is preferred as the onset of action may be quicker than if swallowed. Lorazepam is supplied as 1mg tablets and the Genus, PVL and TEVA brands are all blue, oblong, scored tablets which are suitable to supply for sublingual use. Note that for brands available in the UK, the sublingual route is off-label us.

**Thinking of undertaking the RPS Advanced Portfolio?** The Lead Pharmacist for Community Pharmacy (Lanarkshire) is about to embark on her RPS Advanced Portfolio. If you are interested in undertaking your RPS Advanced Portfolio however looking for some Community Pharmacy support / peers to undertake this journey together then please get in touch! – [ellenjo.fowler@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:ellenjo.fowler@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk)

**Do you need to request authorisation for an unlicensed medicine?** NHS Lanarkshire has updated the Unlicensed Medicine Authorisation Request Form and Community Pharmacy Flowchart – please see the [Community Pharmacy webpage](#) for guidance/documents and a reminder about script endorsements. (Documents are also attached) Please start using these new Request Form as soon as possible. **Old forms will no longer be accepted beyond the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025.** Please remember these forms do not need to be handwritten / printed.

## Community Pharmacy NHS Lanarkshire 14<sup>th</sup> July Update

**Are you going to be closed on the 21<sup>st</sup> of July?** As we approach the 21<sup>st</sup> of July bank holiday weekend please ensure the whole pharmacy team, including reliefs and locums have read/actioned the attached Community Pharmacy July Bank Holiday Checklist.

**Recently qualified as an IP in Community?** CONGRATULATIONS to all of the Community Pharmacists who have recently qualified as an Independent Prescriber! Unsure what to do next? Come along to our Introduction to Pharmacy First Plus webinar, where we will outline the service, how to order pads when you run out. We will have a look at some of the conditions and resources available to help with your clinical decision making and there will be an opportunity to have a look at some of our prescribers current prescribing. This will be an informal session, stay for the full session or just drop in for a question! [Click here](#) to book onto the session (August 20<sup>th</sup> 1-2pm).

**Need more support on when to supply/sell Sumatriptan OTC/via Pharmacy First?** RPS members can access the Sumatriptan pharmacy guide aimed to support pharmacy teams with the supply of Sumatriptan OTC or via Pharmacy First. The guide covers a number of key questions during your consultation & a summary of product/patient counselling points. Don't have an RPS membership? Why not have a look at the NES [e-learning resources](#) including; An Introduction to migraine; Assessing if a patient has a migraine; Self-help support for patients with migraines and Treatment of migraine.

**What is the difference between Clinical Portal and the Emergency Care Summary?** Clinical Portal is a *read-only* digital platform that consolidates patient data from various clinical systems. It allows healthcare professionals to view essential patient information in one place. Emergency Care Summary (ECS) is a component within the Clinical Portal that provides details on a patient's acute and repeat medications. However, the current version within the portal does not show medication quantities, therefore it is important to directly access the ECS through the link further below for that information. These tools give Community Pharmacy access to vital patient information, enabling them to deliver safe, informed, and effective care. The Clinical Portal now supports cross-board access for the following areas: Ayrshire & Arran, Dumfries & Galloway, Forth Valley, Greater Glasgow & Clyde, Lanarkshire and the Golden Jubilee Hospital.

**Shout out to North Road Pharmacy!** Community Pharmacy teams don't always hear the outcomes of urgent referrals, so it was incredibly heartening to receive such positive feedback. After a recent clinical assessment of an 11-week-old baby, North Road Pharmacy made an urgent out-of-hours referral that led to a hospital admission for meningitis. Thanks to the teams prompt action and clinical judgment, the baby received timely care and is now recovering well. The family has expressed deep gratitude for the pharmacist's quick thinking and vital role in recognising the signs

early. A reminder to all of our Pharmacy Teams that meningitis can develop suddenly and symptoms can include;

- a high temperature (fever)
- being sick
- a headache
- a rash that does not fade when a glass is rolled over it (but a rash will not always develop)
- a stiff neck
- a dislike of bright lights
- drowsiness or unresponsiveness
- seizures (fits)

**\*\*These symptoms can appear in any order. You do not always get all the symptoms\*\*.**

**Do you provide a travel health service?** Please see attached Travel Health Websites Letter from Public Health, which discusses **access to TRAVAX** ([www.travax.nhs.uk](http://www.travax.nhs.uk)) and Fit for Travel ([www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk)) being suspended from Thursday 10th July 2025.

**Are you a registered healthcare professional who offers treatment, care and/or follow-up to patients with chronic pain?** The University of Strathclyde is conducting research to develop a patient app for the self-management of chronic pain. The study is looking to recruit healthcare professionals to share their insights regarding the development of the patient app. Involvement in the first study will include an interview via Microsoft Teams, lasting approximately 30-45 minutes, where you will be asked to share your experience of working in chronic pain care and your attitudes towards the use of a patient app for the self-management of chronic pain. In addition, you will be invited to take part in a follow-up study where you will be asked to share your thoughts and opinions on an early version of the app. If you are interested in participating, or would like more information, please email [ashleigh.main@strath.ac.uk](mailto:ashleigh.main@strath.ac.uk) . HCP Study poster attached.

**Do you know which Glucose monitoring strips and Lancets are on the Lanarkshire Formulary?** 38% of Home Blood Glucose Monitoring and Lancets prescribed last year were a non-formulary product. Please see attached Formulary adherence which discusses products available on formulary.

**Do you know which products are in shortage?** Please see attached a summary of Shortages WC 7/7/25 (attached) & prescribing notes July 25 (attached)

**Do you know how the Clinical Portal pilot going?** The Digital team have been following up with Community Pharmacies participating in the Clinical Portal pilot. Please see below feedback so far.

## Project evaluation form received back from an IPP



Question	Rating
How would you rate the onboarding process	5 / 5
How useful is access to clinical portal	5 / 5
How would you rate the <u>LearnPro</u> assessments	5 / 5

*"I have had to access the Clinical Portal as I needed a patient's eGFR for prescribing nitrofurantoin for a UTI, as the patient had been admitted to hospital in the past for a UTI. I would mostly use this for U&Es and for the ECS—for checking repeat meds if someone out of area has forgotten tablets and needs an emergency supply through the CPUS."*