

Community Pharmacy NHS Lanarkshire 3rd November Update

**There will be no CP update on the 17th of November.
Anything urgent will be sent directly to CPs clinical
mailboxes.**

Are you aware of which items should not be prescribed in NHS Lanarkshire?

We all have a responsibility to ensure patient safety is put first and that the maximum impact of our resources are used in the promotion of health and wellbeing. This is particularly important with our use of medicines which represent the most frequently used therapeutic intervention in healthcare. To support this approach, in January 2024 NHS Lanarkshire published the guideline “**Items which should not be prescribed in NHS Lanarkshire**”, following consultation with staff and patients. This guideline has now been updated to Version 2 following local feedback and in line with the national guidance recently published by Scottish Government. The guideline continues to identify **low therapeutic value medicines and devices**, outlining items that should **not be prescribed**. Pharmacy teams and/or Prescribers can find the guidance [here](#). Attached is also the Medicines of low clinical value (MOLCV) Quick Ref list & Prescribing notes for October.

Have you seen the update to the Pharmacy First and Pharmacist First Plus remuneration?

The Scottish Government has released circular [PCA\(P\)\(2025\)24](#) which details changes to the remuneration of all components of the NHS Pharmacy First (Scotland) service. These changes have been delivered in consultation between the CPS Board and the Scottish Government, in response to feedback from the community pharmacy network. Contractors are encouraged to read this circular in full. The CPS team will run a webinar on the detail of the circular on the evening of the 20th of November. You can register your [interest here](#). In the meantime, if you have any questions please contact enquiries@cps.scot.

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 you use the professional to professional line? Last weekend a patient attended a pharmacy to pick up a prescription following a consultation with NHS24 who emailed the script over to the selected pharmacy. The patient attended the pharmacy however was advised there was no script for them and to contact NHS24 again. The patient went through the NHS24 queuing system again, impacting NHS24 capacity & the patients journey when in this situation the pharmacy team could have

used the Prof 2 Prof line to follow the script up. Please ensure there is access to the clinical mailbox both during the week and weekend, if you need access to a clinical mailbox please contact:

NHSLanarkshire.PharmacyFacilitation@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

What are your concerns if the Pharmacy Champion role is to cease? As you are aware, Scottish Government have ceased funding for the Community Pharmacy Champion role. NHS Lanarkshire would like to hear your views and feedback on the role and any concerns with the funding ending. Please take the time to complete the following [Pharmacy Champion Survey](#)

Congratulations to the 9 Community Pharmacist starting their Independent Prescribers Course in January! NHS Lanarkshire has 109 prescribers across 82 Pharmacy First Plus sites. There have been 9,933 items issued by our prescribers between Jan-June 2025...approx. 1500 appointments saved a month! Please also find attached the CPIP prescribing newsletters for June.

How competent do you feel in recognising the signs and symptoms of cancer? The earlier that cancer is diagnosed and treated, the better the survival outcomes. Although cancer survival has improved, the UK still lags behind performance in other European countries. Improving the percentage of early stage diagnoses will mean fewer premature deaths from cancer and this will have a positive effect on overall life expectancy in Scotland. This is a Scottish Government priority and Community Pharmacy can play a key role in this. [Gateway C](#) is an early cancer diagnosis resource and provides accessible, innovative, and tailored information to support early detection of cancer for all healthcare professionals. Designed by GPs and education specialists in collaboration with leading clinical experts and patients, the interactive courses help you apply learnings to challenging clinical scenarios with 85% of users feeling more confident knowing when to refer.

Please see attached the Public Health MPR.STYSFE poster which you may want to display in your pharmacy to support patients to reduce the spread of infection over the winter period!

Have you seen the latest NHS Lanarkshire Joint Adult Formulary updates? Please see summary below. Attached is also an update on the **West of Scotland Formulary** work that is currently underway, aligning A&A, Lanarkshire, D&G, FV and GGC. So far 4 chapter reviews have begun, 198 formulary pathways created and 515 medicines and products have been discussed. Please review WoS attachment for full update.

Chapter 2: Cardiovascular System > Stable Angina, Acute Coronary Syndromes and Fibrinolytic Drugs > Fibrinolytics

Stable Angina, Acute Coronary Syndromes and Fibrinolytic Drugs | Right Decisions

Prescribing Notes updated to include both NHS Lanarkshire Guidelines: [Hyperacute Stroke - Thrombolysis and Thrombectomy Pathway](#) and [Hyperacute Stroke – Alteplase Guidance For Patients Requiring Thrombolysis – Alternative To Tenecteplase](#).

Chapter 3: Respiratory System

Chapter 3. Respiratory System | Right Decisions

Formulary choice Asthma inhalers updated in line with updated NHS Lanarkshire guidance "[Pharmacological Management of Adult Asthma in Primary & Secondary Care](#)".

Chapter 4: Central Nervous System > Drugs Used in the Treatment of Obesity > Anti-Obesity Drugs Acting on the Gastro-Intestinal Tract > Specialist Initiation (S1)

Drugs Used in the Treatment of Obesity | Right Decisions

Minor amendments have been made to the Prescribing Notes to highlight the additional criteria for the use of the medicines listed in this section for weight management within NHS Lanarkshire.

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

Insulins | Right Decisions

Removal of Isophane insulin (Insulatard Innolet®) as this has been discontinued.

Chapter 6: Endocrine System > Sex Hormones > Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) for Menopausal Symptoms > Topical Vaginal Oestrogen

Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) for Menopausal Symptoms | Right Decisions

Prescribing Notes for Estradiol 10 microgram pessaries updated to highlight that this medicine is listed generically on the formulary.

Chapter 6: Endocrine System > Diagnostic and Monitoring Agents for Diabetes > Home Glucose Monitoring

Home Glucose Monitoring | Right Decisions

Section updated to remove discontinued test strips and meters. Accu-Chek Instant® test strip added.

Chapter 10: Musculoskeletal and Joint Diseases > Drugs Used in Neuromuscular Disorders > Other Neuromuscular Disorders > Disease Modifying Agents for Multiple Sclerosis

[Drugs Used in Neuromuscular Disorders | Right Decisions](#)

Prescribing notes updated to include a list of medicines supplied via the NHS Lanarkshire Homecare Medicines Service (HMS) for Multiple Sclerosis, and to remove out-dated prescribing information.

Chapter 11: Eye > Corticosteroids and Anti-Inflammatory Preparations > Corticosteroids – MODERATE Potency

[Corticosteroids and Anti-Inflammatory Preparations | Right Decisions](#)

AND

Chapter 12: Ear, Nose and Oropharynx > Drugs Acting on the Nose > Corticosteroids AND Ear, Nose and Oropharynx > Drugs Acting on the Ear > Otitis Externa: Anti-Inflammatory Preparation

[Chapter 12. Ear, Nose and Oropharynx | Right Decisions](#)

Removal of specification of Vistamethasone® brand as this has been discontinued. Medicine now listed generically.

Chapter 13: Skin > Skin Cleansers, Antiseptics and Desloughing Agents > Chlorhexidine Salts

[Skin Cleansers, Antiseptics and Desloughing Agents | Right Decisions](#)

Removal of brand specification of Hibiscrub® for chlorhexidine gluconate 4% solution - this product is now listed generically.

Chapter 20: Stoma Care > Solidifying Agents

[Chapter 20. Stoma Care | Right Decisions](#)

Information regarding discontinued products updated.