

Substance Use Service Pharmacy News



December 2022 Forth Valley

Festive period

The holiday period over Christmas and New Year can be a particularly high risk time for people who use drugs. If community pharmacy staff have any welfare concerns about patients who attend the Substance Use Service, please make contact with the service to discuss your concerns.

The opening arrangements for the Substance Use Service over the festive period are:

Contact	Contact Number	Availability
Prescriptions: Falkirk Stirling/Clacks	 01324 673670 01786 468282	Normal hours 9:00am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday 19 th to 23 rd December and from 28 th to 30 th December 2022 And from 4 th January 2023 onwards Festive Season Closed: Monday 26 th December & Tuesday 27 th December Monday 2 nd January 2023 & Tuesday 3 rd January 2023
Key workers: Falkirk CADS Stirling/Clacks CADS	 01324 673670 01786 468282 Or keyworker mobile (office hours only)	

Non-urgent communication can be emailed to: fv.cadsprescribing@nhs.scot.

Non-urgent queries for the Substance Use Service Pharmacy Team can be sent to:

fv.substanceusepharmacy@nhs.scot

Change Grow Live Recovery Freephone helpline is **08081962188**

CGL are closed on 24th & 25th of December and 31st December & 1st January 2023.

There is a telephone service only available 09:00-13:00 on 26th & 27th of December and 2nd & 3rd of January 2023. Normal service is operating on all other dates.

Safe storage of medication

This year because the Public Holidays again fall on Mondays and Tuesdays, patients who are prescribed OST may have additional doses of methadone or buprenorphine dispensed which will require to be stored safely at home.

It is important to ensure that all patients are aware of the necessity for safe storage, and that they have access to appropriate secure storage for these doses.

'Safe Storage of Methadone' leaflets are available from the Forth Valley Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) support team on **07775 535133**. Further information will be included in 'festive packs' being sent out to community pharmacies by the ADP in December.

Missed OST doses

It is important that pharmacy teams continue to highlight THREE consecutive missed doses of OST directly to the relevant service or GP surgery as soon as possible to allow us to make contact with the patient and support them back into treatment at the earliest opportunity.

If three or more days of a prescribed treatment are missed there is a risk that the patient will have lost tolerance to the prescribed medication and giving the usual dose may cause overdose. The relevant prescribing service/prescriber should be contacted for advice and to discuss appropriate next steps.

Injection Equipment Provision (IEP)

IEP and associated harm reduction interventions are important public health measures that reduce the spread of blood-borne viral infections among people who inject drugs. Delivery of high quality IEP in a community pharmacy setting can ensure that people who inject drugs have access to services that can prevent and address health issues. It also provides an opportunity to disseminate vital information regarding health and harm reduction to people who inject drugs

Over the festive period, community pharmacies are asked to ensure that you have an adequate stock of all IEP supplies to ensure there are no limits on availability. People accessing IEP should be encouraged to take sufficient equipment so that they always have new equipment for every injecting episode. Over the festive period this may mean people need or request more than usual.

People should also be offered an appropriately sized sharps container, and encouraged to return used equipment for safe disposal. However, supply of injecting equipment is not subject to limits or in any way linked to volume or frequency of returned used equipment.

Community pharmacies who participate in IEP are also asked to ensure you have a supply of naloxone available within the pharmacy for emergency use should it be required, and team members who are trained to use it.

Naloxone

Naloxone is a potentially life-saving medicine when used in opiate overdose. Community pharmacies are continuing to support the increased availability and awareness of naloxone across NHS Forth Valley.

Preparing for the festive period provides an opportunity to revisit the importance of naloxone with patients and/or family members, and ensuring that they have access to a supply and are trained how to use it.

If patients are declining to take their prescribed supply of naloxone please highlight this to the Substance Use Service, to allow this to be reviewed and for records to be updated accordingly.

*Thank you all for your ongoing support of patients
accessing MAT and IEP across NHS Forth Valley.
Have a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year.*