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NHS Scotland Directors of Pharmacy  
SPAA3  
Primary Care Pharmacy Leads  
Community Pharmacy Scotland

18 January 2023

Dear Colleagues

## **NHS PHARMACY FIRST SCOTLAND – 2023 REVIEW OF APPROVED LIST**

I am writing to you in relation to the NHS Pharmacy First Scotland Approved List of Products, which is due to be reviewed in 2023.

We are seeking input from NHS Boards and community pharmacy contractors to submit suggested amendments to the Approved List – whether this is for the addition of new or alternative products or any deletions.

As you will know, an important aspect of NHS Pharmacy First Scotland is self-care and for this reason, the Approved List is to some extent narrower than previous Minor Ailment Service formularies. However, the intention is still to direct members of the public to community pharmacy as the first port of call and all suggested changes will be fully considered.

### **Annual Review Process**

In line with many prescribing formularies, the Approved List will be reviewed and updated on a biennial basis. The attached flowchart outlines the process for the 2023 review.

When the first review was undertaken in 2021, we developed a collaborative process and we have updated this based on feedback received and the experience during that first review. We have strived to allow additional time for local Area Drug and Therapeutic Committee (ADTC) teams and the Area Drug and Therapeutic Committee Collaborative (ADTCC) to consider the List.

An online form has been developed to capture product suggestions and is hosted by Community Pharmacy Scotland at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Q8B2WNQ>. This should be used by both community pharmacy contractors and NHS Boards to submit any suggestions for collation.

Once collated, the responses will be sent to local ADTC teams for consideration and agreement. Once ADTC teams have worked to resolve any issues arising as far as possible, an updated draft Approved List will be submitted to the (ADTCC for their approval and adoption across Scotland.

### **Annual Review Timescales 2023**

Deadline for suggestions:	17 <sup>th</sup> February
Collated responses to be sent to local ADTCs:	17 <sup>th</sup> March
Local ADTCs to approve draft revised list:	23 <sup>rd</sup> June
ADTCC to approve revised list:	18 <sup>th</sup> August
Revised Approved List comes into force:	1 <sup>st</sup> October

### **Process for ad-hoc changes**

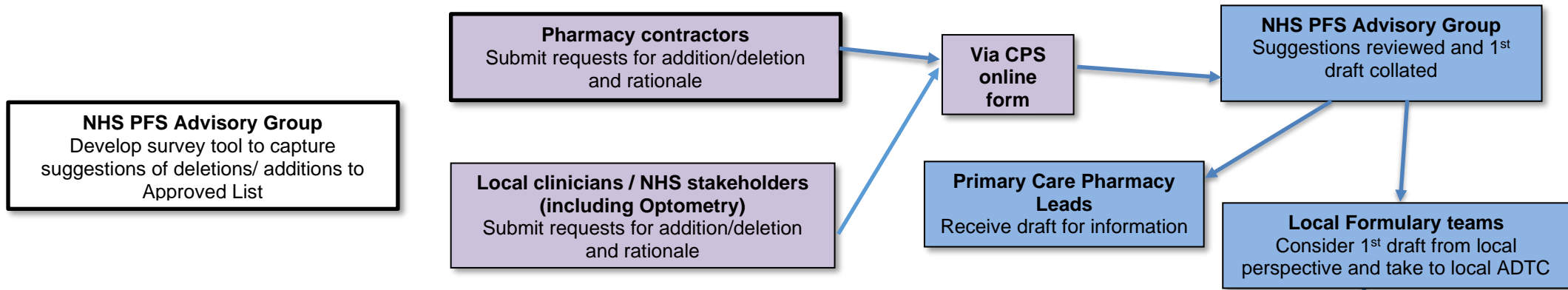
I should also take this opportunity to remind you that there may be times between the scheduled reviews when the Approved List requires to be updated on an ad-hoc basis due to either identified medicines shortages or discontinued products or when Health Boards make changes to their local list of emollients. For these types of changes, a lead in time of at least 6 weeks is necessary to allow for an updated version of the Approved List to be published and updated on Patient Medication Record (PMR ) systems. Any requested changes of this nature should be submitted to the NHS Pharmacy First Scotland advisory group via the Primary Care Pharmacy Leads.

Finally, I would invite you to share this letter with your formulary teams and colleagues who have an interest in this review of the Approved List.

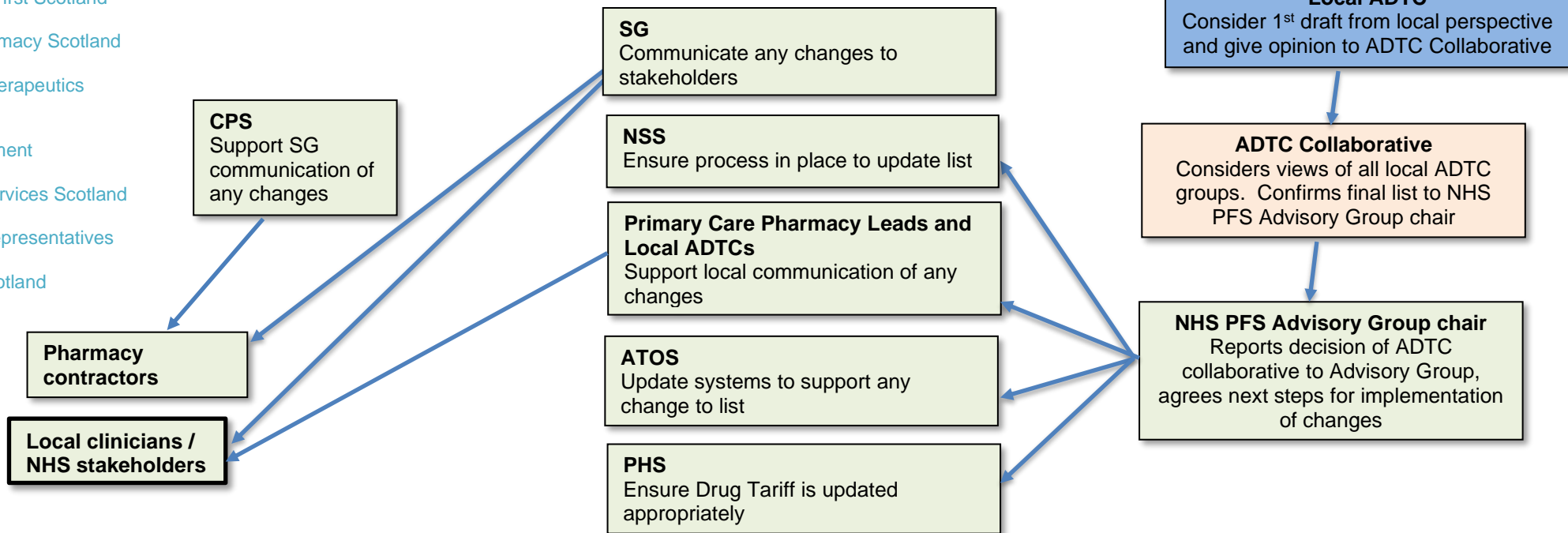
Yours sincerely



**PROFESSOR ALISON STRATH FRPharmS  
CHIEF PHARMACEUTICAL OFFICER**



Key:  
**NHS PFS**  
 NHS Pharmacy First Scotland  
**CPS**  
 Community Pharmacy Scotland  
**ADTC**  
 Area Drugs & Therapeutics  
 Committee  
**SG**  
 Scottish Government  
**NSS**  
 NHS National Services Scotland  
**ATOS**  
 PMR suppliers representatives  
**PHS**  
 Public Health Scotland



Process for 2023 review of NHS PFS Approved List