

Pharmacy Newsletter

Issue 4, March 2025



Needle Stick Injuries

Please ensure you have a process in place for any incidents

There have been cases of needle stick injuries reported from other health boards over recent months. These have occurred while offering private and NHS services within the community pharmacies. These incidents have sparked the need to review that each contractor has a needle stick injury process in place. If you do not have one, it is essential that one is developed to ensure required treatment happens in a timely manner.

If you have any queries please contact
fv.communitypharmacysupport.nhs.scot

Sharps SLA

A new SLA was sent out recently, please read and reply back to:

fv.communitypharmacysupport@nhs.scot

NEO Update

It is essential that Neo activity is entered every time the service is provided. The system has built in alerts for patient safety and an increase in late entries has caused a large volume of alerts being sent to the Substance Use teams in error. If additional training is required, please contact: fvcommunitypharmacysupport.nhs.scot

Independant Prescribers

If you are leaving Forth Valley, you must inform the relevant people, link for form below

<https://pharmacies.nhsforthvalley.com/local-guidance/prescription-pads/>

Pharmacy Resource Pack Pancreatic Cancer

<https://pancreaticcanceraction.org/healthcare-professionals/resources-for-pharmacists/pharmacy-pancreatic-cancer-resource-pack/>

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REFERRAL PROCESS



PHARMACY FIRST REFERRALS

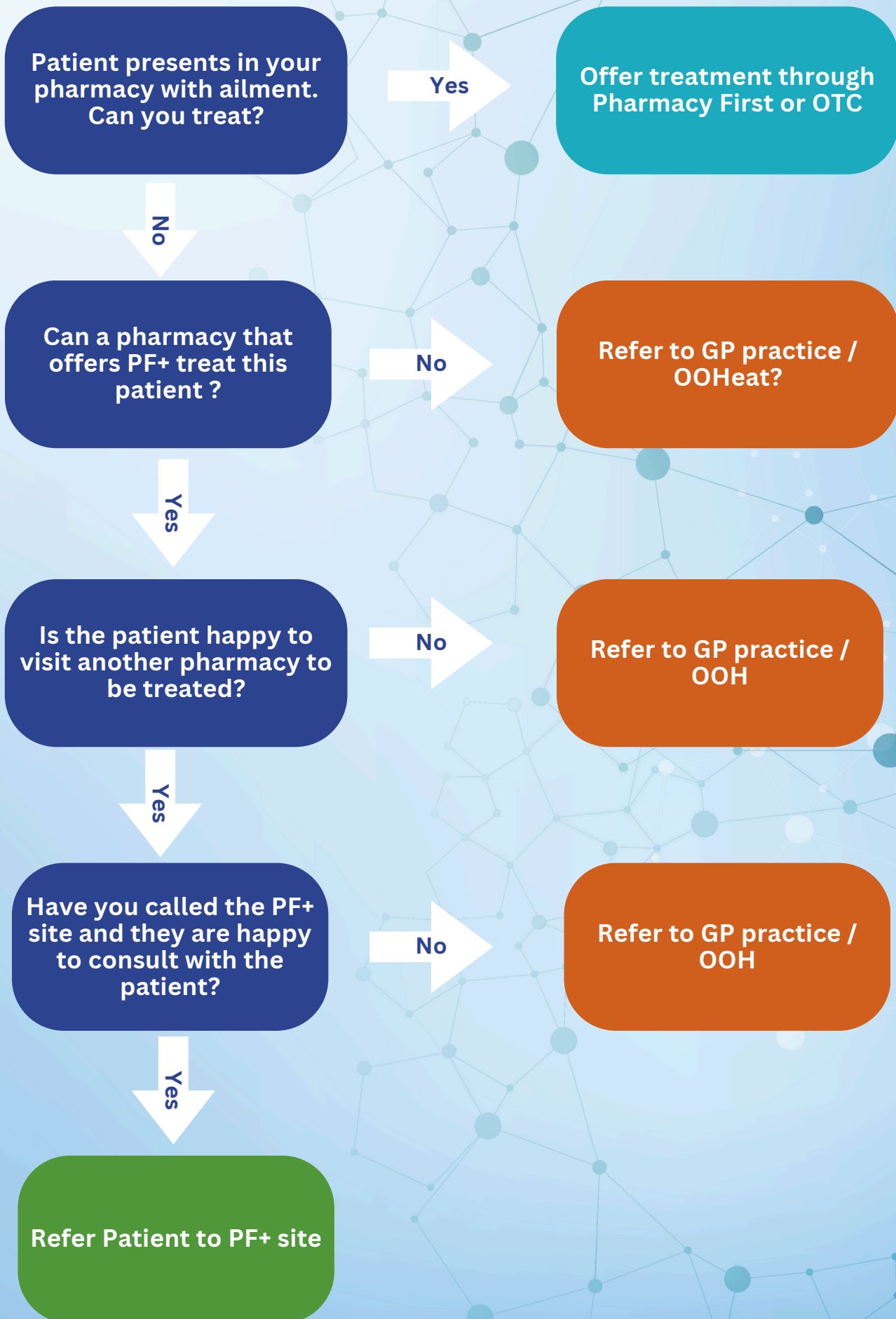
It has come to our attention that there have been inappropriate referrals among community pharmacies. A process for referring to Independent prescribers was previously communicated via email, and you can find the flow chart below.

Community pharmacist independent prescribers should only receive referrals for patients with ailments that fall under common clinical conditions. Recent instances of inappropriate referrals include cases of genital warts, bleeding sore ears, and gout.

Community pharmacies should avoid making 'promises' or suggesting what the independent prescriber will prescribe. This practice will help minimize patient dissatisfaction when treatment is declined. Additionally, the referral process requires that community pharmacies **MUST** contact the Independent prescriber prior to directing the patient to ensure they are willing to review the case.

If you have any questions regarding the referral process, please feel free to reach out.

PHARMACY FIRST PLUS REFERRAL FLOW CHART



NO SMOKING DAY WEDNESDAY 12TH MARCH

**QUIT
YOUR
WAY**
with our
support

<https://ashscotland.org.uk/no-smoking-day/>

<https://nhsforthvalley.com/health-services/az-of-services/stop-smoking-service-clinics/>

What happens when you quit?

The sooner you quit, the sooner you'll notice changes to your body and health. Look at what happens when you quit for good.



After 20 minutes
Check your pulse rate, it will already be starting to return to normal.



After 8 hours
Your oxygen levels are recovering, and the harmful carbon monoxide level in your blood will have reduced by half.



After 48 hours
Your carbon monoxide levels have dropped to that of a non-smoker. Your lungs are clearing out mucus and your senses of taste and smell are improving.



After 72 hours
If you notice that breathing feels easier, it's because your bronchial tubes have started to relax. Also your energy will be increasing.



After 2 to 12 weeks
Blood will be pumping through to your heart and muscles much better because your circulation will have improved.



After 3 to 9 months
Any coughs, wheezing or breathing problems will be improving as your lung function increases by up to 10%.



After 1 year
Great news! Your risk of heart attack will have halved compared with a smoker's.



After 10 years
More great news! Your risk of death from lung cancer will have halved compared with a smoker's.

COMMUNITY PHARMACY UPDATES



Extension of Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) for Cefalexin 125mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free

<https://www.publications.scot.nhs.uk/files/pca2025-p-01.pdf>

Quetiapine 50mg, 150mg, 200mg, 300mg and 400mg modified-release tablets

<https://www.publications.scot.nhs.uk/files/msan-2025-08.pdf>

Drug Alert Class 4 Drug Alert 06 2025 – Class 4 medicines defect information – caution in use – Teva UK Ltd – Lansoprazole gastro-resistant hard capsules 15mg

<https://www.publications.scot.nhs.uk/files/dc20250211drugalert06.pdf>

Thank you for reading!