

Pharmacy Newsletter

Issue 5, June 2025



STOP SMOKING SERVICE

A new training video for the Stop Smoking Service will soon be accessible to all support staff within Community Pharmacy.

NEO UPDATE ALERT

It is essential that Neo activity is entered every time the service is provided.

The system's has patient safety alerts, and if entries are late, it's causing large volumes of alerts to the Substance Misuse teams by mistake.

Need further training? Contact:
fvcommunitypharmacysupport.nhs.scot

CLOZAPINE

There will be no clozapine audit conducted this year. Staff members who require registration or training should reach out to fv.communitypharmacy.nhs.scot for assistance.

Contents

**CP
Updates**

New PGDs

**Child
Protection**

**Bladder
Service**

CP Alerts

Advertising of Services Guidance



When advertising the services offered by a Community Pharmacy, several important considerations must be taken into account:

- **No Incentives:** It is imperative that no incentives or inducements are provided to patients in exchange for their agreement to have their prescriptions dispensed or to access any services.
- **Patient Consent:** Obtaining patient consent is essential for any services rendered.
- **Adherence to Standards:** The standards published by the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) should be reviewed and utilised as a guideline to ensure that any proposed practices do not violate these standards.
- **Use of Logos:** The NHS Scotland and NHS Forth Valley logos should only be utilised when advertising NHS services, and not when promoting private services.

Use of SBAR for Patient Referrals to GP Practices



The SBAR (Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation) framework has emerged as a vital instrument for referring patients back to general practitioner (GP) practices, facilitating a seamless and effective patient journey. While we have noted numerous positive and appropriate referrals made using SBAR, we would like to take this opportunity to clarify its intended application.

SBAR is designed to provide context and articulate the background of a patient's presenting complaint. It is instrumental in ensuring that patients are reviewed within an appropriate timeframe based on their clinical needs.

However, it is crucial to emphasise that SBAR should not be utilised to request prescriptions. If a clinical examination has been conducted, its findings must be documented clearly. We must avoid creating the expectation that patients will receive a specific medication solely based on an SBAR submission to reception staff.

Maintaining clarity regarding the purpose of SBAR is essential for upholding clinical standards and managing patient expectations effectively.

CELLULITIS IN PENICILLIN-ALLERGIC PATIENTS



**New
PGDs**

This PGD addresses the management of cellulitis in patients with a penicillin allergy. Recognising the demand for such a service, we anticipate that its implementation will significantly benefit pharmacists, patients, and GP practices by streamlining the patient care pathway.

TREATMENT OF INFECTED INJECTION SITES

The second Patient Group Direction (PGD) concentrates on the treatment of infected injection sites. Although the number of patients requiring this service may be limited, we believe it plays a vital role in preventing severe infections and minimising hospital admissions.

Community pharmacies are essential in providing care to patients who inject drugs. They offer critical services, such as medication dispensing and safe injecting equipment, and act as accessible healthcare professionals with whom this demographic frequently interacts. This established rapport has significantly contributed to the development of the aforementioned PGD, acknowledging that patients with potential injection site infections are more inclined to seek assistance at community pharmacies rather than other healthcare facilities.

Training materials created by Lynne at the Scottish Drugs Forum have been distributed to facilitate the effective implementation of the PGD. If you have not yet received these materials or have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us.

As part of the local Pharmacy First Extension service, as outlined by NHS Forth Valley, fees will be issued for each consultation, whether it involves advice, treatment, or referral. A payment of £17.50 per consultation will be processed upon submission of a monthly claim form to the Primary Care Contracts Officer.

CHILD PROTECTION



If you have concerns regarding a child, including an unborn baby, or a young person, it is crucial to seek guidance. Support is available through the NHS Forth Valley Child Protection Department, which can be reached Monday to Friday from 08:30 to 16:30 at the following telephone number: 01786 477420.

In cases where a child or young person is believed to be in immediate danger, please contact the police by dialling 999. For non-urgent concerns, a referral can be made by contacting the local social work department and completing the Notification of Concern Form. [Form-2B-Referral-Form.doc](#)

Possible indicators of concern may include:

- Unexplained injuries or discrepancies between a child's account and the nature of their injuries
- Frequent visits for Pharmacy First or Pharmacy First Plus services
- Signs of neglect, such as unclean clothing or lack of supervision
- Poor relationships or bonding with parents

It is important to note that these signs do not necessarily indicate abuse; there may be other factors at play in the child's life. Nonetheless, vigilance is essential.

Contact information for local social work departments is as follows:

- Stirling Social Work: 01786 471177
- Clackmannanshire Social Work: 01259 225111
- Falkirk Social Work: 01324 506070



BLADDER SERVICE

NHS Forth Valley – Pharmacy Advice: Continence Products and Pads

NHS Forth Valley operates a Bowel and Bladder Service located at Falkirk Community Hospital. This service is dedicated to conducting continence assessments and providing a variety of products to the local community.

Recently, we have been approached by several organisations and community groups that have received donations of continence products but are unsure how to proceed with them. We would like to inform you that if these products were originally supplied by the NHS and are no longer needed, they can be returned to the NHS. This practice helps reduce costs and minimises unnecessary waste.

Should you receive any inquiries regarding the return of continence products, please direct them to the Bowel and Bladder Service at 01324 673881 or 01324 673882.



COMMUNITY PHARMACY UPDATES

EXTENSION TO SERIOUS SHORTAGE PROTOCOLS (SSPs) FOR ESTRADOT® (ESTRADIOL) PATCHES AND CEFALEXIN 125mg/5mL ORAL SUSPENSION SUGAR FREE

<https://www.publications.scot.nhs.uk/files/pca2025-p-09.pdf>

PAXLOVID ENDORSING GUIDANCE

<https://www.publications.scot.nhs.uk/files/pca2025-p-08.pdf>

PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES: AMENDMENTS TO THE DRUG TARIFF IN RESPECT OF REIMBURSEMENT ARRANGEMENTS FROM 1 APRIL 2025

<https://www.publications.scot.nhs.uk/files/pca2025-p-07.pdf>

ADDITIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE SMOKING CESSATION – UPDATED PATIENT GROUP DIRECTION (PGD) FOR VARENICLINE

<https://www.publications.scot.nhs.uk/files/pca-2025-p-06.pdf>

Thank you for reading!