

Dear Colleague

## **UPDATED INFORMATION ON PRESCRIPTION STATIONERY AND ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS WHO ARE NHS INDEPENDENT PRESCRIBERS**

### **Purpose**

1. This Circular provides updated advice to community pharmacy contractors about the prescription stationery being used by Allied Health Professionals independent prescribers and which may be received in community pharmacies for dispensing.

### **Background**

2. Prescribing rights have been extended to Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) independent prescribers who are able to prescribe within their own area of competency.

3. Guidance has been issued to Health Boards on the process to allow the set-up of AHPs who are recognised by the Health and Care Professionals Council (HCPC) as Independent Prescribers (IP) to prescribe using GP practice clinical systems. This is an interim approach pending implementation of updated GP Practice IT Systems that supports AHP prescribers.

4. Circular PCA (P)(2019) 10, issued on 14 May 2019 advised community pharmacy contractors that new paramedic independent prescribers based in GP practices would use the standard GP10 prescription form, however, it has now been confirmed that they will instead use the GP10(SS) form.

19 November 2020

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### **Addresses**

#### For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards

Director of Practitioner Services, NHS NSS

#### For information

Chief Executive, NHS NSS

Directors of Pharmacy

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### **Enquiries to:**

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## **Detail**

5. Community pharmacies may be presented with barcoded GP10(SS) prescription forms that will appear as issued by a General Practitioner. However, the patient has been prescribed the medication by a paramedic independent prescriber who is responsible for signing their name in the prescriber signature area. Community pharmacies will be able to identify the prescribing role by the inclusion of a stamp annotated with the prescriber's name, their role and their HCPC professional code. An example is provided at Appendix A of this Circular.

6. If General Practice IT systems are not available or paramedic independent prescribers need to prescribe medication to patients on home visits, as well as a further cohort of paramedic independent prescribers who are not based within GP practices, they will handwrite prescriptions using GP10 (NMP) prescription pads.

7. In addition to paramedics, other relevant AHP independent prescriber roles can also start annotating prescriptions with a stamp using this interim workaround. It is intended that they will use the GP10(SS) stationery if GP IT is available and GP10(NMP) for handwritten prescriptions. A list of supported roles and abbreviations is provided at Appendix B.

8. An AHP independent prescriber's qualification and registration status can be checked at <https://www.hcpc-uk.org/check-the-register/>

9. Community Pharmacy Scotland has been consulted on this circular.

## **Action**

10. NHS Boards are asked to bring this Circular to the attention of their community pharmacy contractors and local pharmacy committees.

Yours sincerely



**Alison Strath**  
Interim Chief Pharmaceutical Officer  
Pharmacy & Medicines Division

**Appendix A: Example of GP10 (SS) form showing stamp location and content within red box**

**GP10(SS)(5)** NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (SCOTLAND)

Name: Ms Pat Services  
Address: 1 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh  
Postcode: EH12 9EB

Age if under 12 yrs.  
Yrs / Mths

No. of Days Treatment:  CHI No. 0101704445

COLOMYCIN pdr/inj/neb soln 2 million units  
Send <10> vial(s)  
Label: AS DIRECTED <004621211000001109>

One prescription on form

Barcode: A881 1300 0055 HGXW

Pharmacy Stamp  
Dispensing Endorsements  
Pack size Numbers only  
ADD 10x10ml Water for injection  
Pack size Numbers only

**SAMPLE** 18.02.2011

Signature of Doctor: 11110  
Date: 18.02.2011

Dr Christine Green  
Aton Origin Test Practice  
3 Appleton Place  
Appleton Parkway  
Tel: 01506 606375  
111112

EH54 7EZ  
88113

00830083

Name  
Paramedic IP  
PA 12345

AHP details will be stamped and annotated within this area

**Appendix B: Abbreviated 2 character Mnemonics for AHPs being set up in GP Practice IT**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Mnemonic</b>
Paramedics	PA
Podiatrists/Chiropodists	PO
Physiotherapists	PH