

Primary Care Medicine Shortage Guidance

If you have any queries relating to this guide, please contact
ggc.prescribing2@nhs.scot

Version Number:	1
Date Approved:	April 2025
Date of Next Review:	April 2028
Lead Author:	Mairi-Anne McLean
Approval Group:	Pharmacy Services Clinical Governance Group

Important Note:

The Intranet version of this document is the only version that is maintained. Any printed copies should therefore be viewed as 'Uncontrolled' and as such, may not necessarily contain the latest updates and amendments.

Primary Care Medicine Shortage Processes

Scope

This process document is designed to provide advice to NHSGGC Pharmacy Services Primary Care & Community Pharmacy staff on how the Primary Care Central Prescribing (Prescribing Support) and Community Pharmacy Development Teams assist in the management of medicine supply problems and shortages.

Please note, separate reporting mechanisms exist for vaccine shortages, please contact pharmacy public health for further details ggc.pharmacypublichealth@nhs.scot.

Advice on Management of Shortages within Primary Care

NHSGGC Pharmacy Services Primary Care & Community Pharmacy staff who need advice on medicine supply problems and shortages should first refer to;

- Specialist Pharmacy Services (SPS) Medicine Supply [Tool](#). This tool provides the latest information on supply issues, actions to take, alternatives to use, and expected resolution dates. Content is provided by Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) and Medicines Value and Access (MVA) team, NHS England. Login is required.
- The NHSGGC Current Medicine Shortages [Page](#). This page hosts all current Scottish Government Medicine Supply Alert Notices (MSANs) and local advice where available.

Reporting of Shortages within Primary Care

Where a shortage needs to be reported (published advice not available or insufficient), NHSGGC Pharmacy Services Primary Care & Community Pharmacy staff should report through the following communication channels;

- General practice and Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) staff - ggc.prescribing2@nhs.scot
- Community pharmacy –Shortages Reporter App <https://members.cps.scot/shortages/>.

The Role of the Primary Care Central Prescribing (Prescribing Support) Team

- Review Scottish Government MSANs and where necessary provide onwards advice to HSCP Pharmacy Teams
- Publish MSANs and local clinical advice memos on the Current Medicine Shortages SharePoint page
- Where necessary, collaborate with key departments on management of specific medicine shortage and risk assessment of alternatives
- Where necessary, collaborate with key departments on the publication of local clinical advice memos
- Remove published advice from the Current Medicine Shortages SharePoint page when shortage has resolved
- Provide information to prescribers on key shortages via ScriptSwitch® electronic prescribing decision support

The Role of the Community Pharmacy Development Team (CPDT)

- When a shortage is judged to have a significant impact, a communication will be circulated to all community pharmacies within NHSGGC advising of this shortage, along with any recommendations associated with continuity of care of patients that have been affected.
- If a community pharmacy advises CPDT of a potential shortage, the pharmacy will be encouraged to report this shortage on the CPS shortage web page.

Further Advice

Where further advice on shortages is required, please contact;

- ggc.prescribing2@nhs.scot - General practice and Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) staff
- ggc.cpdevteam@nhs.scot – Community Pharmacy.