

From Emma Quinn
Interim Pharmacy Lead, SPPG



By email:
For the attention of all Community
Pharmacies currently providing the
Pharmacy First Pilot Service for the
Treatment of Shingles

Strategic Planning and Performance
Group
2 Franklin Street
BELFAST
BT2 8DQ

Tel: 028 9536 3683
Email: emma.quinn@hscni.net
Date: 20th August 2025

Dear Colleagues

PHARMACY FIRST PILOT SERVICE FOR THE TREATMENT OF SHINGLES EXTENSION
UNTIL 31st MARCH 2026

Service Extension

I am pleased to announce that the **Pharmacy First Pilot Service for the treatment of shingles**, which launched on 6th January 2025, will now continue until 31st March 2026. In the coming weeks updated service resources including PGDs, service specification and consultation form will be circulated.

Review of the pilot service

You will be aware from [previous correspondence](#) that the Medicines Optimisation and Innovation Centre (MOIC) has been commissioned by SPPG, in agreement with CPNI, to undertake a review of the service. Thank you to all of the pharmacies who have already submitted their records, for all shingles consultations undertaken from 6th January – 30th June 2025.

Any consultation records still outstanding should be emailed to the relevant local SPPG office via the pharmacy's secure HSC email account by Friday 29th August 2025.

The extension to the service, will ensure that the service can continue during the upcoming 2025/2026 winter season until the MOIC review has been completed.

Promotion of the service

Pharmacies may wish to take this opportunity to remind local GP practices that they provide this service and to encourage them to refer suitable patients to the pharmacy.

Pharmacies may also wish to promote the service on social media using the Twitter and Instagram resources available on the [BSO Website](#). Service posters have been provided and should be displayed in the pharmacy.

All other resources to support this service, including the service specification, consultation forms and patient group directions (PGDs) can also be accessed on the [BSO Website](#).

On-going review of the service resources will include some important changes. Please ensure that you are using the most up-to-date versions.

If you have any queries in relation to this Pharmacy First Service, please contact your Pharmacy Adviser (for contact details, please refer to [pmmt-contacts.pdf](#)).

Yours sincerely,



Emma Quinn

Pharmacy Lead (Interim)

Strategic Planning and Performance Group

<i>Contact Details for Local Primary Care Offices:</i>				
Belfast	South Eastern	Southern	Northern	Western
12-22 Linenhall Street Belfast BT2 8BS	12-22 Linenhall Street Belfast BT2 8BS	Tower Hill Armagh. BT61 9DR	County Hall 182 Galgorm Road Ballymena BT42 1QB	Gransha Park House 15 Gransha Park Clooney Road Londonderry BT47 6FN
Tel: 028 9536 3926	Tel: 028 9536 3926	Tel: 028 9536 2104	Tel: 028 9536 2812	Tel: 028 9536 1082
pharmacyservicesbelfast@hscni.net	pharmacyservicesse@hscni.net	pharmacyservicesouth@hscni.net	pharmacyservicesnorth@hscni.net	pharmacyserviceswest@hscni.net