

## 2025-01-22 Note of Informal Policy Meeting with CPS

### Attendees:

Alison Strath, Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, Scottish Government (AS)

[redacted]

[redacted]

### Apologies:

James Fox, Senior Policy Manager, Scottish Government

Dionne Mackison, Unit Head, Scottish Government

### Discussion points

#### Payment processing problems

- Work is ongoing with NSS to agree and establish a process for the back payment of historical rejected Pharmacy First items
- AS agreed to raise the prioritisation of the Pharmacy First fix at the ePharmacy Planning meeting the following day
- Other payment processing issues remain on the Stabilisation Board's work plan

#### CPS communications on the Flu Vaccination Programme

- AS advised that both the Cabinet Secretary and the Minister for Public Health and Women's Health had raised concerns about CPS suggesting in their recent communications that Scottish Government was responsible for the shortage in the pharmacy private supply of vaccines. The Minister has noted that CPS had never raised this formally in negotiating meetings or informally via AS.
- AS explained that it is not standard practice to consult on vaccine policy as Scotland generally follows the advice of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) and the information regarding eligibility is publicly available ahead of the programme.
- [redacted] explained that the change in JCVI advice had meant that community pharmacy contractors who offer a private flu vaccination service had been caught unaware of the change. [redacted] advised that there had not been an intent from their side to blame the Scottish Government.
- AS offered to ensure CPS were aware of any future changes to the vaccination programme by adding them to the copy list for communications.