



JOB PACK

Practice Pharmacist

AfC Band 7

February 2026

Make a difference
in Fife



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Message from the Pharmacy Senior Leadership Team

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in the Practice Pharmacist role within NHS Fife. This is an exciting opportunity to work collaboratively with a strong, effective Integrated Pharmacy and Medicines Directorate. We are a forward-thinking service, constantly seeking to deliver high performance with a focus on quality, person-centred care, and innovative pharmacy and medicines services. If you relish a challenge, and have a passion for making a difference, then the NHS Fife Pharmacy and Medicines service will provide a great opportunity for you to realise your potential.

The NHS Fife Pharmacy and Medicines Directorate is undergoing an ambitious programme of transformation and integration. It serves a population of approximately 380,000 people and is provided by an integrated team of around 300 Pharmacy staff, including Pharmacists, Pharmacy Technicians, Pharmacy Support Workers, Nurses, and Administrators. The team works across Acute and Community hospital sites, General Practices, Mental Health services, and a range of specialist teams. Partnership working is at the core of our values, and we work closely with other members of the multi-disciplinary team, including our Community Pharmacy colleagues, to deliver the highest quality care for everyone in Fife.

There are opportunities to become involved in a range of projects across the integrated Pharmacy Directorate as well as shaping the future vision for the service. As part of our staff engagement and leadership, our Pharmacy Senior Leadership hold regular staff briefing sessions to update the team on new developments, celebrate achievements and to hear ideas from our staff.

Fife has something to offer everyone and getting to Fife is simple, with excellent public transport links from around the UK. This fabulous region is not far from Scotland's major cities and is also very easy to get around. With Edinburgh just to the south, Dundee and Perth to the north, and Glasgow to the southwest, Fife is in a great position in Scotland and getting here is simple thanks to excellent air, road, rail, and public transport links from around the UK.

We look forward to receiving your application in course.

Cara Mackenzie

Deputy Director of Pharmacy

Fiona Forrest, Director of Pharmacy and Medicines | Cara Mackenzie, Deputy Director of Pharmacy and Medicines

Niamh Morrison, Head of Pharmacy – Population Health and Wellbeing | Claire Steele, Head of Pharmacy – Medicines Supply and Quality | John Brown, Head of Pharmacy – Clinical Services | Sally Tyson, Head of Pharmacy – Development and Innovation



Integrated Pharmacy and Medicines Directorate



Job Description

Job purpose

Primary Care Pharmacy has an opportunity for an enthusiastic and experienced pharmacist with a background in hospital, primary care or community pharmacy to be part of an expanding multidisciplinary team to deliver a clinical, patient facing role within GP practices and community hospital, with a strong focus on medication review.

Dimensions



The NHS Fife Pharmacy and Medicines Directorate serves a population of approximately 380,000 people and is provided by an integrated team of around 300 Pharmacy staff, including Pharmacists, Technicians, Pharmacy Support Workers, Nurses, and Administrators.

The team works across Acute and Community hospital sites, General Practices, Mental Health services, and a range of specialist teams. Partnership working is at the core of our values, and we work closely with other members of the multi-disciplinary team, including our Community Pharmacy colleagues, to deliver the highest quality care for everyone in Fife.

Role of the department

The NHS Fife Pharmacy and Medicines Directorate aims to provide the highest quality pharmaceutical care to the people of Fife. The integrated team provide person-focussed pharmaceutical care to individuals, and supply medicines through systems that ensure safe, effective, and economical use.

We strive to ensure that patients derive maximum benefit and minimum harm from their medicines, throughout their healthcare journey. We work in partnership with our clinical colleagues, providing high quality care, timely information, and advice to deliver safe and secure use of medicines. By integrating our team across NHS and HSCP services in Fife, we ensure that medicines are purchased, stored, dispensed, and prescribed to the highest standards in every care setting.

Governance

- To comply with health and safety policies and procedures issued by NHS Fife and national legislation.
- Comply with data protection and IT security policies and procedures and adhere to local policies and national codes of practice.

Assignment and Review of Work

- The postholder is responsible for providing pharmaceutical care for all patients within the delegated area as part of the clinical pharmacy service.
- To undertake medication reviews of individual patients, within specific patient groups, and to deliver pharmaceutical care to optimise patient care as part of the multidisciplinary team.
- Provide prescribers and other clinical staff with specialised advice on the pharmaceutical care of patients through monitoring of patients and prescriptions.
- Provide medicines information to clinical staff and patients and their carers.
- Provides information to other clinical staff to ensure compliance with formulary, D&TC, and other pharmacy related strategies.
- Keep up to date with the formulary and other prescribing guidelines and promote their use within the relevant clinical area.
- Monitor and analyse medicines utilisation and expenditure to promote economic use of medicines and provide written information, reports, and presentations on such usage, to the senior /lead / practice pharmacist.
- Report any medication incidents or near misses in accordance with risk management policies.
- Act as pharmacy contact for practice/ ward/ care home staff with respect to medicines advice and pharmacy issues
- Initiate, undertake, or guide others in quality improvement work related to prescribing and delivery of pharmacy services, suggesting and implementing improvements as required.
- Participate in multidisciplinary clinical audit and provide timely feedback.
- Supervision of support staff (clinical technicians, pharmacy assistants, pharmacy students) in clinical and technical pharmacy activities.
- Participate in peer review meetings, and in the internal in-service training programme.
- Ensure compliance with medicines legislation and advise other health professionals on compliance with legislation regarding medicines.
- To work as an Independent Pharmacist prescribing with responsibility and accountability for the assessment of patients with undiagnosed and diagnosed conditions and for decisions about their clinical management, including prescribing.
- To implement and evaluate prescribing strategies at ward/ practice level and to contribute to these in NHS Fife.
- To review prescribing patterns and discuss recommendations with prescribers. To negotiate change in prescribing practice and contribute to the management of change within practice prescribing to ensure rational and cost-effective prescribing.
- Assessment of suitability of patients own medicines for re-use
- Medication history taking
- Counselling patients on the use of their medicines and giving relevant lifestyle advice.
- Undertake therapeutic drug monitoring: - advise on monitoring frequency and time, advise on dosage adjustment where necessary. Can frequently involve complex calculations.
- Advise nursing staff on the safe storage and handling of medicines (e.g. preparation of intravenous injections)

- Maximise individual patient pharmaceutical care at multidisciplinary team meetings as appropriate.
- To assist in the production of prescribing monitoring reports to monitor formulary compliance and implementation of Fife's prescribing action plans, using prescribing databases.
- To assist in the development and maintenance of the e-formulary and prescribing support tools for prescribers.
- To assist in the development and maintenance of the formulary, policies, prescribing guidelines and prescribing tools to support the safe, effective and cost-effective use of medicines in NHS Fife.

Decisions and Judgements

The postholder is expected to use his/her own initiative to make professional decisions; advice can be sought from peers, Senior Pharmacists, or the Lead Pharmacists.

- The postholder is expected to act decisively and autonomously in their professional capacity without regular need to refer to line managers. The nature of the post means that some prescribing initiatives and medication reviews are complex and the systems within each practice are diverse, so emphasis is placed on the post-holder being able to anticipate problems and resolve them before or when they arise.
- The postholder will have to recommend and implement care plans for individual patients after assessing clinical, pharmaceutical, and social care information, frequently in circumstances where patients have complex clinical and pharmaceutical needs.
- Most of these decisions will involve interpretation and analysis of medicine treatment and reviewing the clinical and cost-effective aspects to promote safe and rational prescribing and use of medicines.
- Resource and time constraints will require the postholder to evaluate and prioritise tasks.
- Interpretation of financial data (drug expenditure) to provide advice to the Senior/ Lead Pharmacists.
- Interpret clinical evidence and individual patient information and then prescribe medicines as an independent prescriber for identified patients.

Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation

- To review, develop, implement, and evaluate prescribing strategies at practice and team base level and to contribute to these at HB level.
- To analyse and interpret highly complex prescribing data and feedback (in presentation or in written and graphical form) comparative information to prescribers either individually or in groups, to improve the quality and cost effectiveness of prescribing.
- To create, maintain and update highly complex spreadsheets and databases containing large quantities of prescribing data. A detailed understanding of the spreadsheets and databases is essential to fully monitor and evaluate trends, exceptions, and performance of prescribing against identified indicators.
- To , evaluate and provide feedback to the lead clinical pharmacist, prescribing or chronic disease management groups and/or Fife wide pharmacy groups, on the progress and effectiveness of prescribing within the team base.

Most Challenging/ Difficult parts of the job

- To build effective working relationships with a wide and diverse range of NHS and non-NHS staff from differing organisational cultures including local authority and pharmaceutical industry.
- To negotiate prescribing change and influence prescribing behaviour with consultants, general practitioners and other prescribers around good quality, evidence based and cost-effective prescribing practice.
- Provision of high quality pharmaceutical care which meets the needs of the individual patients whilst maximising the efficiency of available resources.
- Continually updating personal knowledge base and developing skills in new specialities.

Communications and Working Relationships

- Provide timely advice and support to practices and wards in response to unpredictable medicines management and risk management issues. (e.g. drug withdrawals and new safety alerts)
- To support and liaise with local community pharmacists regarding practice prescribing changes and to facilitate communication across the general practice/community pharmacy/ acute services interface.
- Counselling patients (including frail, elderly patients or patients with physical or mental disabilities) on medication regimens requires tact, persuasion and reassurance skills (e.g. when discussing side effects versus benefits), and empathy and motivational skills to maximise patient concordance.
- Advising and negotiating with prescribers and other clinical staff to ensure safe effective and economic use of medicines. This advice may be challenged by clinicians, so the post holder needs to be able to justify their advice.
- Liaises with other members of the pharmacy service, and healthcare professionals (e.g. communication with Primary Care colleagues about compliance aids)
- Makes presentations when contributing to the education of other pharmacy staff and healthcare professionals (e.g. tutorials on medicines administration to nursing staff)
- To supervise, support, mentor and direct the work and learning of other Pharmacists/ Pharmacy Technicians to deliver the pharmacy work plan and achieve qualification/accreditation (e.g. as a Post Graduate Foundation trainee supervisor, Designated Prescribing Practitioner, BTEC mentor etc)
- To support and facilitate Experiential Learning placements

Physical, Mental, Emotional and Environmental Demands of the job

Physical Demands and Skills

- Lifting bags/ boxes of pharmaceutical supplies, files, documents weighing 2-5 kgs daily
- Daily requirement to sit in a restricted position for a substantial proportion of the working day whilst reviewing patient notes and using computer for producing reports/ analysing and interpreting data etc. for recording outcomes of patient's reviews, interventions.

Mental Demands

- Work requires a high level of concentration (daily for at least 4 hours at a time) characterised by assessing various strands of sometimes conflicting information and forming a clinical

opinion. This is conducted under time management pressures and subject to frequent interruptions some of which may require immediate responses.

- High degree of concentration required whilst checking prescriptions where precision and accuracy is required and is also subject to frequent interruptions.

Emotional Demands

- Contact with terminally ill patients or bereaved relatives.
- Working in isolation
- Need to develop and maintain mutual trust and shared understanding with a wide range of health and social care staff (e.g. clinicians, GPs, pharmacists, information services, communication staff, managers).
- Managing difficult and often confrontational meetings with other professionals.
- Dealing with patients in an appropriate manner.

Environmental Demands

- The postholder is required to operate a computer for prolonged periods whilst producing reports/ analysing and interpreting data.
- Daily use and exposure of VDU (visual display unit)
- To work in a variety of different community settings including GP practices, care homes and patients own homes.

Equipment, Machinery and Systems

- The post-holder will be required to operate a computer, and will be required to use a telephone, printer, photocopier, and email for effective communication.
- The post-holder may be required to independently operate technical equipment used in patient assessment including (but not limited to) sphygmomanometers, near patient testing machinery, spirometer.
- The post-holder is required to have the ability to travel throughout the area.
- The post-holder will be required to use Microsoft programmes, various GP prescribing systems e.g. VISION/ EMIS, electronic discharge software, clinical support software, community pharmacy PMR systems, internet search facilities and medical databases as well as, on occasion, PRISMS, a specialist programme for prescribing analysis.

Qualifications and/or Experience Specified for the Post

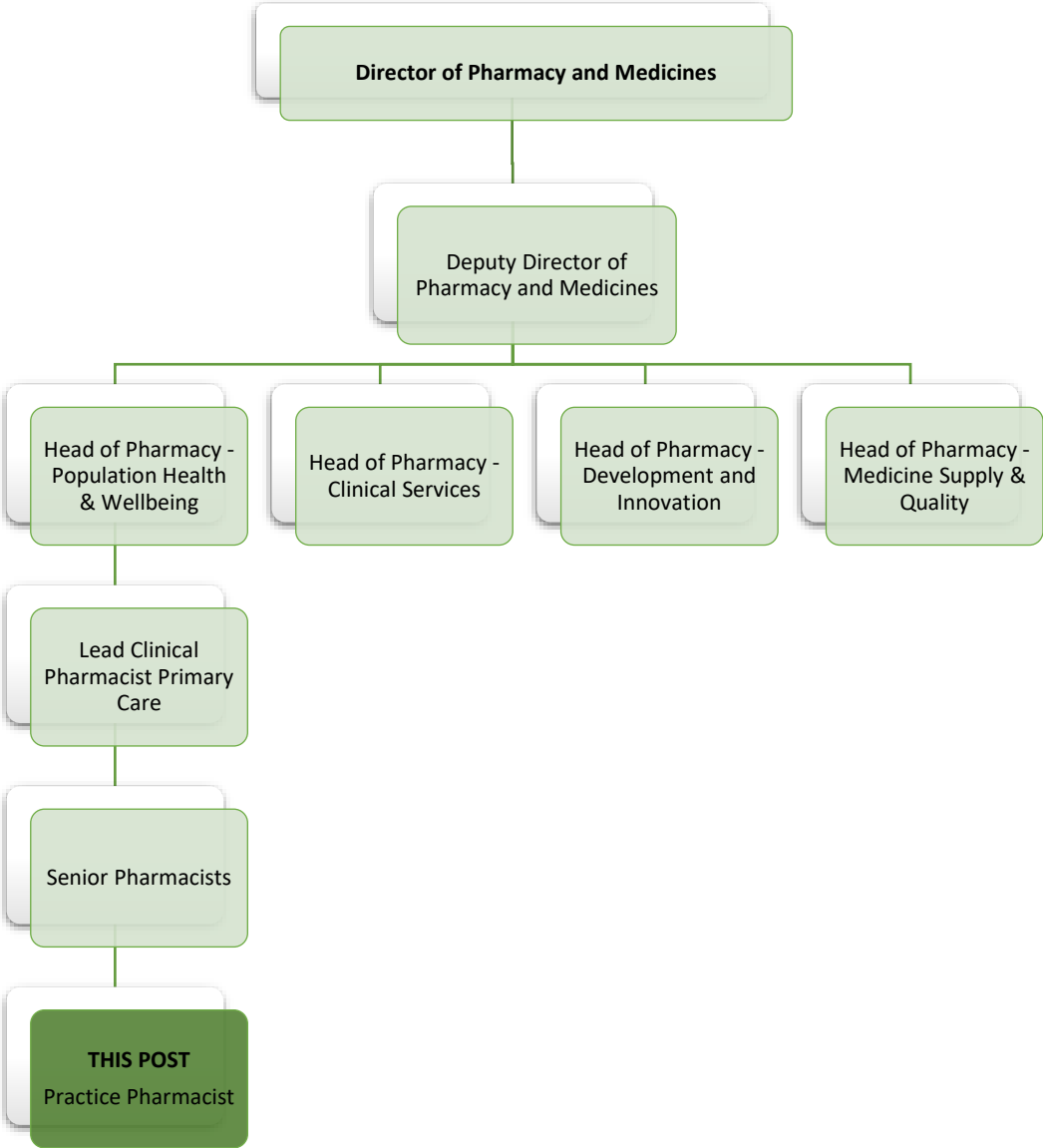
- You will have a Master's/ Postgraduate qualification in clinical Pharmacy and be on the practising register of the General Pharmaceutical Council.
- Annotation as an independent prescriber on the General Pharmaceutical Council register or will complete within an agreed timescale.
- This post would suit a pharmacist with clinical knowledge and experience, excellent communication and interpersonal skills, IT skills, and who would like to continue and develop their career in primary care.
- Relevant post registration experience as a pharmacist within a hospital setting, primary care or community pharmacy is required.

Person Specification

	ESSENTIAL*	DESIRABLE*	MEASURE*
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post registration experience as a pharmacist within hospital, community, or primary care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post registration experience as a hospital clinical pharmacist or in a clinical setting. • Experience in a clinical role, undertaking medication/ polypharmacy reviews in hospital, community or primary care setting. 	Application form/ Interview
Qualification/ Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master's degree in pharmacy or equivalent • Registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council as a Pharmacist • Annotation as Independent Prescriber on GPhC register 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant post graduate qualification in Clinical Pharmacy • Engagement with RPS Core Advanced 	Application form
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to CPD • Excellent clinical knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge/ understanding of Pharmacotherapy and GMS contract 	Interview
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A level of English language competency and communication skills necessary to perform this role safely and effectively • Therapeutic and practical skills for dealing with a highly complex range of pharmaceutical interventions. • Basic keyboard skills • Excellent written and oral communication skills • Resource and time management skills • Research and audit skills • Clinical assessment skills and consultation skills training or be willing to undertake within an agreed timescale. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proficient in the use of GP clinical systems 	Application form/ Interview

	ESSENTIAL*	DESIRABLE*	MEASURE*
Aptitude	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to work as part of a team or on own • Demonstrates positive attitude • Demonstrates a caring attitude towards patients and colleagues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to work on own initiative and self-generate work 	Application form/ Interview
Other e.g., Team Player, ability to travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to travel across Fife • Team player 		Interview

Organisational Chart



NHS Fife – Our vision, mission, and values

Our vision

The people of Fife live long and healthy lives

Our mission

Transforming Health and Care in Fife to be the best

Our values

Care and compassion

Dignity and respect

Openness, honesty, and responsibility

Quality and teamwork

NHS Fife – our priorities

Our corporate objectives

Person-centred:

- Listen to what matters to you
- Design services in partnership with service users, carers, and communities
- Give you choices and information
- Create environments that encourage caring and positive outcomes for all
- Develop and redesign services that put patients first supporting independent living and self-management

Clinical excellence:

- Work with individuals to receive the best care possible
- Ensure there is no avoidable harm
- Achieve and maintain quality standards
- Ensure environment is clean, tidy, well maintained, safe and something to be proud of
- Embed patient safety consistently across all aspects of healthcare provision

Sustainable:

- Optimise resource for health and wellbeing
- Ensure cost effective and within budget
- Increase efficiency and Reduce Waste
- Service redesign will ensure cost effective, lean and minimise adverse variation
- Optimise use of property and assets with our partners

Exemplar employer:

- Create time and space for continuous learning
- Listen to and involve staff at all levels
- Give staff skills, resources and equipment required for the job
- Encourage staff to be ambassadors for Health and Social Care in Fife
- Create high performing multidisciplinary teams through education and development
- Equip people to be the best leaders

National context

Quality healthcare

Annually the Scottish Government sets NHS Boards with performance targets to ensure that resources made available to them are directed at areas which are a priority for improvement and are consistent with the Scottish Government's Purpose and National Outcomes. These targets are focused on Health Improvement, Efficiency, Access, and Treatment (also known as HEAT targets).

Working in partnership with Local Authorities and the Third Sector

NHS Scotland works in partnership with local authorities and the Third Sector to achieve a healthier Scotland. "The Quality Strategy provides NHS Scotland with a basis on which partnerships such as the afore mentioned can be formed.

This is done through Community Planning Partnerships which secures progress towards a number of strategic priorities, and the outcomes agreed locally and nationally through the National Performance Framework.

- Caring and compassionate staff and services.
- Clear communication and explanation about conditions and treatment.
- Effective collaboration between clinicians, patients, and others.
- A clean and safe care environment.
- Continuity of care; and Clinical excellence.

Fife Local Resilience Partnership

Local resilience Partnerships (LRPs) are multi-agency partnerships made up of representatives from local public services, including the emergency services, local authorities, the NHS, the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, and others. These agencies are known as Category 1 Responders, as defined by the Civil Contingencies Act. Fife Local Resilience Partnership has been a key component in NHS Fife's planning and response to the current global pandemic.

Health and Social Care Integration

In 2016 the Scottish Government legislated to bring together health and social care in to a single, integrated system. The legislation created 31 integration authorities across Scotland who are now responsible for £8.5 billion of funding for local services. These services were previously managed separately by NHS Boards and local authorities.

In Fife, we have one Joint Integration Board, and the purpose of health and social care integration is to transform people's experience of care and the outcomes they experience. This is necessary

because when services are planned and delivered together, closer co-ordination will enable the fundamental changes in care models required to keep pace with people's changing needs.

You will provide leadership as part of a multiagency approach comprising of Fife Health and Social Care Partnership and Fife Council to ensure value for money and enhanced outcomes for patients across both acute and community care settings in Fife.

Links to our key strategic documents and national resources

NHS Fife Strategic Documents

Improving Services NHS Fife

<http://www.nhsfife.org/nhs/index.cfm?fuseaction=nhs.displaytheme&themeid=E44C37C3-5056-8C6F-C003CD63C15D8FF0>

More information on NHS Fife Board can be found by visiting www.nhsfife.org

National Resource Links

Re-mobilise, Recover, Re-design: the framework for NHS Scotland

Sets out how health boards will safely and incrementally prioritise the resumption of some paused services, while maintaining COVID-19 capacity and resilience.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/re-mobilise-recover-re-design-framework-nhs-scotland/pages/2/>

Scotland's National Performance Framework

Information on Scotland's National Performance Framework and how Scotland is performing against it.

<https://nationalperformance.gov.scot>

Realistic Medicine

Realistic medicine recognises that a one size fits all approach to health and social care is not the most effective path for the patient or the NHS.

<https://www.realisticmedicine.scot/>

Scottish Government Website:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/About/NHS-Scotland>

Appendix one: Discover NHS Fife

Live NHS
Fife
to the fullest



Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy



Queen Margaret Hospital, Dunfermline



Inspiring healthcare, inspiring life

The National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1947 came into effect on 5 July 1948 and created the National Health Service in Scotland.

Since then, the NHS in Scotland has gone from strength to strength, taking advantage of new technologies and innovations and continually changing and evolving to meet the needs of the communities it services.

Brief overview of NHS Fife

NHS Fife is one of 14 Regional NHS Boards in Scotland. The organisation provides healthcare to over 367,000 residents of Fife and employs around 8,700 staff. As a large rural area with varied geography and several centres of population, there are particular challenges to meet the health needs of the people of Fife. To address these challenges NHS Fife works closely with a variety of partners at a local, regional, and national level, including Fife Council, Fife Health & Social Care Partnership, other Health Boards in Scotland, the voluntary and independent sector and, most importantly, the public.

Fife is home to two large hospitals - the Victoria Hospital, a district general in the centre of the Kingdom: and Queen Margaret Hospital in West Fife.

The majority of NHS Fife's acute services are provided from the Victoria Hospital in the town of Kirkcaldy. The Queen Margaret Hospital in Dunfermline is home to a considerable number of community and therapy services, alongside a minor injuries unit and a state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment centre.

Fife is home to a further eight community hospitals spread across the Kingdom; Lynebank Hospital in Dunfermline; Glenrothes Hospital; Whyteman's Brae Hospital in Kirkcaldy, Cameron Hospital in Windygates, Randolph Wemyss Memorial Hospital in Buckhaven, Stratheden Hospital in Springfield, Adamson Hospital in Cupar and St Andrews Community Hospital.



In addition, there is also a wide range of Primary Care services available in Fife. There are 55 GP practices, 59 Dentists, 46 Opticians and 85 community pharmacies throughout Fife.

Improving services provided by NHS Fife

NHS Fife, along with help from its partners, the public, other NHS Boards, Fife Council, and voluntary agencies, is working to improve its services. The board is working on a number of strategic projects that will shape the future of health care in Fife through the transformation of service provision and facilities. This includes work currently underway in developing:

- Primary Care Hubs
- Mental Health
- Fife Elective Orthopaedic Centre

Demographic and social profile of Fife

The Kingdom of Fife is a peninsula in eastern Scotland with a coastline of 170 kilometres (105 miles) bounded by the Firth of Forth to the South and the Firth of Tay to the North. It is the third largest local authority area in Scotland with a population of over 370,330. This represents 7% of the total population of Scotland. 96% of Fife residents live in 134 settlements, the largest of these being Kirkcaldy, Dunfermline and Glenrothes. 59% of residents feel they have access to quality green space, from award winning beaches to historic town parks.

Fife shares inland boundaries with Perth & Kinross and Clackmannanshire, and is divided into seven administrative or business areas:

- Cowdenbeath
- Dunfermline
- Glenrothes
- Kirkcaldy
- Levenmouth
- North East Fife
- South West Fife

By 2039, the population of Fife is expected to increase by 4.5% to 387,214. The 16 to 19 age group is expected to reduce and those aged 75+ to see the greatest increase. This may be attributed to a declining birth rate and increased life expectancy in Fife, which is currently greater than the Scottish average for both males and females.

The baseline for the minority ethnic population in Fife is still the 2011 Census. This estimated that approximately 1.6% of Fife's population were from an ethnic minority group, with the highest percentage categorised as Asian Pakistani.

The extent of deprivation in Fife is fairly evenly spread across the different data zone bands from most to least deprived. The 2009 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) indicates that Fife has an increasing share of Scotland's most deprived areas. Fife has the sixth highest local authority share of the 15% most deprived data zones in Scotland. 51 (5.2%) of the 976 data zones in the top 15% across Scotland are located in Fife, 8 of which fall into the top 5%. The 2009 data also confirms enduring deprivation in specific areas of Fife.

The proportion of young people not in education, employment or training in Fife is higher than for Scotland overall. The proportion of the working age population with no qualifications is 10.4 per 100,000 of the population, which is also below the Scottish average. Physical health data is positive and among the best in Scotland. This shows evidence of good general health and nurture, and the emergency hospital rate is lower than the Scottish average.

In recent years Fife's economy has moved away from traditional manufacturing industries towards the service sector.

Realise your full potential with NHS Fife

With its stunning beauty, rich history and abundance of sporting and leisure activities, Fife is a fantastic place to live and work, with an identity and a character all of its own. The cost of living here is lower than the national Scottish average and house prices offer superb value for money, providing you with a high standard of living and quality of life.

The major economic and cultural hubs of Edinburgh, Stirling, Perth and Dundee are all within easy commuting distance. In Fife you really can have it all.

Work life balance

As one of the largest employers in the region, NHS Fife is a forward-thinking and innovative organisation which offers an exciting and diverse range of work, training and study opportunities for people from all backgrounds.

NHS Fife works to provide a supportive environment for staff where strong teams work and develop together and where individuals can flourish to realise their full potential. Our 'Well at Work' programme has helped to bring about a truly positive culture within NHS Fife, helping to reduce stress, increase motivation and improve productivity among staff.

It's a beautiful life

The Kingdom of Fife occupies the peninsula formed by the Firth of Forth to the south and the Firth of Tay to the north. The region's landscape is as beautiful as it is diverse, with rolling hills, lochs and spectacular coastline.

This is a place steeped in history. Dunfermline was the first capital of Scotland, home to royal inhabitants, as well as birthplace of Andrew Carnegie, steel magnate and philanthropist whose legacy lives on across the world to this day. The more recent past saw the establishment of the pits and coal mines, heavy industry whose rich heritage is still evident today in the close-knit communities of Cowdenbeath, Lochgelly and Kelty.

The town of St Andrews, named after Scotland's patron saint, sits on its own on a wide bay on our north east shores, boasting not only Scotland's first university, but also its oldest golf club, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, which helped to establish the sport as one of Scotland's greatest exports.

Nowadays it's Kirkcaldy and new town Glenrothes that offer the modern bases favoured by major manufacturing and services industries. Both towns are well connected to Scotland's capital, Edinburgh and the North via the M90 motorway and are easily accessible in less than half an hour by car.

Well connected

Getting to and around Fife is simple, with excellent public transport links from around the UK. This fabulous region is not far from Scotland's cities and is also very easy to get around.

With Edinburgh just to the south, Dundee and Perth to the north, and Glasgow to the southwest, Fife is in a great position in Scotland and getting here is simple thanks to excellent air, road, rail, and public transport links from around the UK.



By road

If you are driving from Edinburgh and the south, Edinburgh is directly connected by the Queensferry Crossing. Then head to Dunfermline where the A92 takes you further into Fife.

From Glasgow and the west, it is easiest to take the M8 to Edinburgh and then head to Fife from there. The best route from Aberdeen and Dundee is to head for the Tay Road Bridge where the A92 continues into Fife. If you are heading to Fife from Inverness, Perth, and the north, follow the A9 from Inverness to Perth. Continue down the M90 from either the A912 at the Bridge of Earn or continue to Dunfermline on the A92.

The A92 connects the whole region and is perfect for car touring with many well sign-posted scenic routes linking the smaller towns and villages.

By train

If you wish to get the train here, there are a number of train stations which have direct rail connections to other towns and cities in Scotland, including Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen and Inverness. There are also links to major English towns and cities on the east and west coast. Fife Circle trains make stops at numerous towns and villages in southwest Fife, while there are also regular trains which run between Edinburgh and Dundee.

By air

National and international flights fly into Edinburgh International Airport and Dundee Airport, which are both just a 20-minute drive from the Kingdom of Fife. In addition, there is Glasgow International Airport, which is just over an hour away.

By bus

Buses from all over the UK stop at Inverkeithing Ferrytoll, where you can continue your journey throughout Fife by bus. An express coach network links Anstruther, Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy, Leven, Glenrothes, Cupar and St Andrews and is complemented by local bus networks in each town.

Sustainability

NHS Fife seeks to encourage staff to be mindful of the impact that their journey to work has on the environment. We encourage staff car sharing, provide electric vehicle charging points at our larger hospitals and offer low emissions pool cars for use of staff. There is also a regular shuttle bus between the QMH and Victoria hospitals for staff use.



Firsts for NHS Fife

At NHS Fife we are always developing and improving services to meet the needs of our local population through innovative and pioneering work across the organisation.

Here are just some examples of recent work that is making a real difference to our patients and services on a local and national scale:

NHS Fife became the first Board in Scotland to pilot Urolift, a minimally invasive procedure for enlarged prostate. Patients now recover faster and the risk of permanent side effects is eradicated.

In another 'first', we were the first Scottish Health Board to pilot successful day surgery hip replacement. This ground-breaking procedure has reduced the length of stay for some patients to less than 12 hours, where previously the average length of stay was three days.

Our frailty assessment service at Victoria Hospital was the first of its kind in Scotland, bringing together different disciplines to identify frailty in patients. The service ensures frailty in patients is identified at the earliest opportunity and patients are given the right treatment in the best place.

A programme developed by NHS Fife, Fife Health and Social Care Partnership and Macmillan Cancer Support Scotland to support patients with advanced lung cancer is providing comprehensive and individualised care while allowing patients to spend significantly less time in hospital and more time at home.

Our laboratories have achieved the international quality accreditation standard known as ISO 15189 – one of the first labs in the whole of the UK to be awarded this gold standard.

NHS Fife is the first Health Board in Scotland to deploy a full-scale electronic track and trigger system, having gone live with Patientrack at Victoria Hospital. Patientrack enables nurses to capture vital signs digitally at the patient's bedside. The technology can then accurately calculate an early warning score for the patient and automatically call medical staff to intervene when signs of deterioration are present. Life-enhancing innovations



Life-enhancing innovations

Clinical research is a vital, everyday part of the NHS. It confirms what works best, improves current care and helps to discover new treatments and medications.

Over 100 of Fife's clinical staff are currently involved in some 250 commercial and non-commercial research studies, with strong links to prestigious neighbouring universities and colleges. These include work with the University of St Andrews (actively participating in its Digital Health Science Initiative), collaboration with the University of Dundee's Health Informatics Centre, and as an internationally accepted site for European research.

NHS Fife's Research & Development Department provides ongoing support to Fife's NHS Research Scotland Research Fellows, PhD scholarships and other postgraduate activities, along with assisting successful recipients of CSO, MRS, Wellcome Trust, and other grants from large grant-awarding bodies.

Our established R&D Department, with its dedicated Research Nurses and Clinical Research Assistants, provides support to researchers on study design, governance, day-to-day study management, approvals, study set-up, conducting patient assessments, data collection, dealing with study paperwork and advising on Intellectual Property. In addition, training courses are run on a wide range of research topics.

Along with a purpose-built Clinical Research Facility at Victoria Hospital, where a range of healthcare and life science related research activities are undertaken, R&D has fully equipped laboratory areas for sample processing, and archiving facilities for long-term storage of study documentation.




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