

To:  
All Community Pharmacies

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20th May 2021

### **Consultation on Duty of Candour**

Dear Colleague

The Department of Health (DoH) is consulting on policy proposals to implement a Duty of Candour for Health and Social Care (HSC) and are keen to hear from everyone who uses or provides services.

The introduction of a statutory Duty of Candour for Northern Ireland was one of the key recommendations arising from the Inquiry into Hyponatraemia Related Deaths (IHRD). The IHRD report recommended that the statutory Duty of Candour should apply to Healthcare Organisations and everyone working for them. The Inquiry also recommended that criminal liability should attach to breach of this duty and to obstruction of another in the performance of this duty. Further recommendations were made about the need for guidance, support and protection to be provided for staff and organisations in order to create a more open culture.

#### **Consultation Event**

The DoH is hosting an online information session for pharmacists and pharmacy staff at **6pm on Monday 14th June 2021**. The purpose of this event is to provide an overview of the proposals that have been published for consultation, and answer any questions that attendees may have. Further information regarding this event, including registration details, can be accessed here: [IHRD Duty of Candour & Being Open - Chat with the Chair - Pharmacy - NI Direct - Citizen Space](#)

The DoH is now seeking your views on the following proposals developed by the Workstream and Subgroup:

- (a) Policy options for the statutory organisational Duty of Candour; and
- (b) Policy options for the statutory individual Duty of Candour; and
- (c) The policy framework for Being Open guidance.

The consultation will run from 12 April 2021 to 2 August 2021. The consultation documentation is available on the DoH website: [Public Consultation on the introduction of a statutory Duty of Candour in Northern Ireland | Department of Health \(health-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Brogan', written in a cursive style.

**Joe Brogan**  
**Assistant Director of Integrated Care**  
**Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management**