

Mrs Cathy Harrison
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

Mrs Jenny Keane
Chief Allied Health Professional Officer



Chief Executive, HSCB (*for onward distribution as necessary*)
Chief Executive, HSC Trusts (*for onward distribution as necessary*)
Chief Executive, BSO (*for onward distribution as necessary*)
Assistant Director Integrated Care, Head of Pharmacy
And Medicines Management, HSC Board (*for onward
distribution to Community Pharmacies and GP Practices*)
Heads of Pharmacy, HSC Trusts
Assistant Director of AHPs (PHA)
Directors of Nursing, HSC Trusts
AHP Leads, HSC Trusts

Castle Buildings
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3SQ
Tel: 028 90 523219
Email: cathy.harrison@health-ni.gov.uk
Jenny.Keane@health-ni.gov.uk

Date: 12th November 2020

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED THE FULL CIRCULATION LIST

Dear Colleague,

Consultation on proposals to amend prescribing, supply and/or administration entitlements for various groups of allied healthcare professionals

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE/I), in partnership with the devolved administrations, the Department of Health and Social Care, and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, has launched seven consultations which include proposals to change entitlements to prescribe, supply and/or administer medicines for eight regulated health professions as follows:

- enabling **dental hygienists** and **dental therapists** to supply and administer certain medicines under exemptions within medicines legislation
- enabling **biomedical scientists**, **clinical scientists** and **operating department practitioners** to supply and administer medicines using patient group directions
- amending the current lists of controlled drugs that **podiatrist** and **physiotherapist** independent prescribers are currently able to prescribe

- amending the list of medicines that **paramedics** can administer in emergency situations using exemptions.

These proposals will require changes to be made to the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 and to the appropriate Misuse of Drugs Regulations. In Northern Ireland the relevant legislation is the Misuse of Drugs Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002 (amended).

The consultation for each proposal will close on 10th December 2020. Engagement events are being hosted by NHS England during the consultation period and these events will provide attendees with the opportunity to hear about the proposals and ask questions on the various consultations.

The consultation documents, engagement event details and the online questionnaires can be found on the NHS England website at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/medicines-2/chief-professions-officers-medicines-mechanisms-programme/>.

Following close of the consultations, NHSE/I will consider all responses received and a summary of the responses for each consultation will be published on the NHS England consultation hub website.

The proposed changes to medicines legislation and the findings of the consultation will be presented to the Commission on Human Medicines which makes recommendations to Ministers regarding changes to the Human Medicines Regulations 2012.

For those proposals which involve controlled drugs, the responses to the consultation will also be presented to the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs which makes recommendations to Ministers regarding changes to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations.

I would be grateful if you could ensure this information is cascaded for the attention of relevant staff within your organisation.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Cathy Harrison
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer



Mrs Jenny Keane
Chief Allied Health
Professional Officer

Circulation List

Executive Medical Director/Director of Public Health, Public Health Agency (*for onward distribution to all relevant staff*)

Director of Nursing, Public Health Agency

Directors of Pharmacy HSC Trusts

Director of Social Care and Children, HSCB

Family Practitioner Service Leads, Health and Social Care Board (*for cascade to GP Out of Hours services*)

Medical Directors, HSC Trusts (*for onward distribution to all Consultants, gynaecology, hepatology, A&E staff, hospital pharmacy, and sexual health/family planning centres*)

Nursing Directors, HSC Trusts (*for onward distribution to all Community Nurses, and Midwives*)

RQIA (*for onward transmission to all independent providers including independent hospitals*)

Medicines Management Pharmacists, HSC Board (*for cascade to prescribing advisers*)

Regional Medicines Information Service, Belfast HSC Trust

Regional Pharmaceutical Procurement Service, Northern HSC Trust

Professor Suzanne Martin Head of School Health Sciences, University of Ulster

Professor Donna Fitzsimons, Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery QUB

Professor Sonja McIlfatrick, Head of School of Nursing, University of Ulster

Caroline Lee, CEC

Donna Gallagher, Open University

Professor Colin Adair, NI Centre for Pharmacy Learning and Development