

To:  
Trust Chief Executives  
Trust Medical Directors  
Executive Directors of Nursing  
Trust Heads of Pharmacy and  
Medicines Management

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29<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Colleague

## **UPDATE ON NORTHERN IRELAND HSC TRUST DISPENSING ON DISCHARGE FROM HOSPITAL**

You will be aware of the DH policy on discharge medication, as set out in the 2004 circular HSS (SC) 08/04. This circular introduced a policy change to the quantity of discharge medication to be supplied, increasing from 3 days' supply to 28 days' supply (where appropriate).

Assurances were sought and received from Trusts in March of this year around adherence to this circular. Additionally, Trust Pharmacy Staff were asked to lead on a review of Trust arrangements for dispensing on discharge, taking into account the recommendations of the circular and current Trust dispensing arrangements, and to produce a regional guidance document around the quantities of medicines to be supplied at discharge under a range of circumstances. This document has now been finalised and is attached for your information.

### **Actions for Trusts**

Please ensure that:

- All Trust staff are made aware of this guidance and of the need to adhere to the principles that are outlined in it
- Relevant Trust policies are reviewed and revised where appropriate to take account of these principles
- Steps are taken to minimise as far as possible the number of patients provided with only 3 days' supply of medicines e.g. out-of-hours or unplanned discharges.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Yours sincerely,



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

CC. GPs Practices  
OOHs  
Community Pharmacies

Enc. 28 day supply policy