

Chief Medical Officer
Sir Dr Michael McBride

HSS(MD) 41/2021

For Action:
Chief Executives, Public Health Agency/Health and Social Care Board/HSC Trusts/NIAS
GP Medical Advisers, Health and Social Care Board
All General Practitioners and GP Locums (*for onward distribution to practice staff*)

Please see attached full addressee list

Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast BT4 3SQ
Tel: 028 9052 0658
Fax: 028 9052 0574
[Email:cmooffice@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:cmooffice@health-ni.gov.uk)

Your Ref:
Our Ref: HSS (MD) 41/2021
Date: 17 June 2021

Dear Colleague

HEPATITIS C BECOMES A NOTIFIABLE DISEASE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Action required

Chief Executives must ensure that this information is drawn to the attention of all clinical staff to enable them to respond accordingly.

The HSCB must ensure that this information is cascaded to all General Practitioners and OOH facilities immediately.

1. The Public Health Act (Northern Ireland) 1967 has been amended to make hepatitis c a notifiable disease. The changes come into effect on 8 July 2021.
2. The Department has made The Public Health Notifiable Diseases Order (Northern Ireland) 2021 under powers conferred by section 1(2) of the Public Health Act (Northern Ireland) 1967. The Statutory Rule is subject to negative resolution procedure before the Assembly.
3. The Statutory Rule will mean that medical practitioners are required to share patient information with the Public Health Agency if they become aware, or have reasonable grounds for suspecting, that a person they are attending has hepatitis c.
4. The Director of Public Health and the Public Health Agency have a range of powers available in relation to notifiable diseases by virtue of the provisions of the [Public Health Act \(Northern Ireland\) 1967](#).

Yours sincerely



Sir Dr Michael McBride
Chief Medical Officer

CIRCULATION LIST

Director of Public Health/Executive Medical Director, Public Health Agency
(for onward distribution to all relevant health protection staff)
Assistant Director Public Health (Health Protection), Public Health Agency
Director of Nursing, Public Health Agency
Assistant Director of Pharmacy and Medicines Management, Health and Social
Care Board, *(for onward distribution to all Community Pharmacies)*
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 Consultant
Obstetricians, Paediatricians and other relevant staff)*
Directors of Nursing, HSC Trusts *(for onward distribution to all Community
Nurses, and Midwives)*
Directors of Children's Services, HSC Trusts
RQIA *(for onward transmission to all independent providers including
independent hospitals)*
Regional Medicines Information Service, Belfast HSC Trust
Regional Pharmaceutical Procurement Service, Northern HSC Trust
Professor Donna Fitzsimons, Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery QUB
Professor Sonja McIlfratrick, Head of School of Nursing, University of Ulster
Caroline Lee, CEC
Donna Gallagher, Open University
Professor Paul McCarron, Head of School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences,
UU
Professor Colin McCoy, Head of School, School of Pharmacy, QUB
Professor Colin Adair, Director of the NI Centre for Pharmacy Learning and
Development, QUB
Joe Brogan, Assistant Director of Integrated Care, HSCB
Donncha O'Carolan, HSCB *(for distribution to all General Dental Practitioners)*
Raymond Curran, Head of Ophthalmic Services, HSCB *(for distribution to Community
Optometrists)*
Trade Union Side
Clinical Advisory Team
Louise McMahon

This letter is available on the Department of Health website at
[https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/professional-medical-and-environmental-
health-advice/hssmd-letters-and-urgent-communications](https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/professional-medical-and-environmental-health-advice/hssmd-letters-and-urgent-communications)