

To: GP Practices  
Community Pharmacists

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Dear Colleague

## **HOME ENTERAL TUBE FEEDING SURVEY**

HSCB is reviewing the current arrangements for ordering and supply of enteral tube feeds, pumps and the consumables required for their administration.

A workshop led by the Department of Health (DoH) in 2018 concluded that there was potential for improvement to the current arrangements for patients in primary care. The reasons included:

- Ordering, supply and delivery systems are complex and not consistent across the region,
- Current systems do not support cost transparency for service delivery across the whole health economy,
- Workforce infrastructure to support patients, in the community and on discharge from hospital, is inconsistent across the region and does not fully comply with regional and national best practice guidance.

There are complex legislative and policy issues to consider if changes to current ordering and supply mechanisms are required. This targeted survey has been initiated by HSCB, as commissioner of services, to seek additional opinions on the adequacy of current arrangements in primary care and on discharge from acute settings.

Stakeholder opinion is important and responses will help inform recommendations for development and improvement of services. Costs for service provision will be considered separately to this review.

The survey will be online at the NI Direct website from 3 August to 25 October 2020, available at:

<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/hsc-new-models-of-prescribing/enteral-feeds-survey>

It is being promoted under separate cover to:

- Healthcare professionals involved in enteral feed patient care in primary and secondary care including care homes
- Patients, who are being actively encouraged to respond by dietetic teams and
- Nutrition companies

Your professional opinion is important and I would be grateful if you could complete the on-line survey and cascade this information to appropriate colleagues within your practice or pharmacy for their participation.

Yours sincerely



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

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Dr Margaret O'Brien for cascade to HSCB Medical Advisers  
Federation GP Leads  
Glynis McMurtry for cascade to GP Practice Pharmacists