



Pharmaceutical Services, 2 Franklin Street, Belfast BT2 8DQ  
Telephone No. 028 95 363364

To: All Community Pharmacists

29<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear colleague

### **Pharmacy First Service**

**“Patient Group Direction for the supply of medicines for the treatment of sore throat, cold and flu-like illness by community pharmacists contracted to provide the HSCB Pharmacy First Service”**

HSCB letter from Mr Joe Brogan on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018 highlighted that the provision of over the counter medicines to patients via the Pharmacy First Service, may have implications for VAT in community pharmacies.

Therefore, pharmacies may decide to provide treatments under this service using dispensary stock where the medicines legislation classification can allow it. Where use of dispensary stock would not be allowed because the stock is classified as a Prescription Only Medicine, the HSCB has developed a Patient Group Direction (PGD) to facilitate such supplies.

Copy of PGD is available at: <http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/2800.htm>

Legal information on the use of PGDs and who can use them is available from the MHRA at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/patient-group-directions-pgds/patient-group-directions-who-can-use-them>



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The NICE Medicines Practice Guideline MPG2 contains good practice recommendations for the use of PGDs. It also covers governance arrangements to ensure that patients receive safe and appropriate care, and timely access to medicines, in line with legislation:

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/mpg2/chapter/Recommendations#using-patient-group-directions>