

To:
All Community Pharmacies

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19th July 2021

Dear Colleague

MEDICINES USE REVIEW (MUR) SERVICE

The Medicines Use Review (MUR) Service was introduced in 2013, as a structured patient-centred service, for improving patient understanding, adherence and use of medicines in the treatment of long term respiratory conditions and diabetes. From then over 185,000 MURs have been undertaken in our community pharmacies and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for this important service delivery.

Evaluation

An evaluation of the service has been carried out by the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Ulster University, Coleraine. This included a review of a sample of MURs and feedback was also sought from community pharmacists, GPs, GP practice staff and members of public who had received the service. A summary of the evaluation is provided in the attached briefing. The full evaluation report is available at [Evaluation of MUR Service in NI 2020](#)

Commissioning of the MUR Service

Although the evaluation of the service was generally positive and demonstrated real benefits for patients, the report highlighted a number of areas for future development and the decision has been made collectively by HSCB, DoH and CPNI that the service should not be commissioned in the same format moving forward.

Discharge Medicines Service

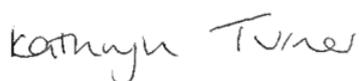
Discharge from hospital is associated with increased risk of avoidable medication-related harm. Reducing harm at transitions of care is one of the three main elements of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Global Patient Safety Challenge: [Medication Without Harm](#). In line with the strategic direction set out in the [Northern Ireland Medicines Optimisation Quality Framework](#), HSCB, DoH and CPNI have agreed that there should be a defined role for community pharmacy to support safer transitions at discharge.

A pathfinder pilot will be established in the North-West of the province in the autumn of this year in advance of planned roll-out across all pharmacies on 2022/23. This service will build on the community pharmacist's skills to support patients with their medicines taking as demonstrated by the MUR service, but will not be constrained by particular therapeutic areas.

Thank you again for your support in providing the MUR service over the last number of years. I look forward to your continued support in the future with the Discharge Medicines Services and other clinical services as they become available from community pharmacy.

If you have any queries please contact your local pharmacy adviser.

Yours sincerely,



Kathryn Turner
Pharmacy Lead
Health and Social Care Board

Cc

Bronagh White, School of Pharmacy, Ulster University



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