

**TO:**RQIA (for circulation to relevant Nursing  
Homes)

For info:

GPs

OOHs &amp; COVID centres

Community pharmacies

Head of Pharmacy Federations (*for  
cascade to GP pharmacists*)Trust Medical Directors (*for cascade to  
Palliative Care clinicians*)Trust Directors of Nursing (*for cascade to  
relevant nursing teams including  
community*)Trust Heads of Pharmacy (*for cascade to  
MOOP teams*)

Tel : 028 9536 3375

Fax : 028 9536 1166

Web Site : [www.hscboard.hscni.net](http://www.hscboard.hscni.net)28<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Colleague

**REMINDER - CONTINUED USE OF URGENT PANDEMIC PACKS IN  
NURSING HOMES IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

As you will be aware Urgent Pandemic Packs were supplied to nursing homes in Northern Ireland who wished to receive a pack in April and May 2020.

The purpose of this letter is to remind staff that packs should continue to be used by staff involved in the care of patients requiring clinically urgent treatment (for **BOTH COVID and non-COVID** conditions). A clinically urgent item is one which must be commenced on the same day/without any delay.

**Nursing homes should continue to use the Urgent Pandemic Packs where patients require clinically urgent treatment.** A list of nursing homes holding packs, guidance on the use of the pack and relevant documents, including replenishment, can be found at

<http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/3162.htm>

Please note that homes were instructed to remove and destroy all Controlled Drugs from the pandemic pack (Letter HSCB 17 June 21) / ([hscni.net](http://hscni.net))

**IMMEDIATE ACTION FOR NURSING HOMES**

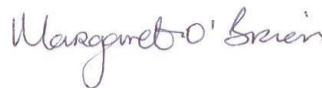
To plan for winter pressures it is vital that nursing homes holding a pack:

- Conduct a stocktake of their Urgent Pandemic Pack contents, including a check of expiry dates. **Any items that require replenishment should be ordered from your local community pharmacy using the Urgent Pandemic Pack Requisition Form (NHR1)**  
<https://hscbusiness.hscni.net/pdf/Urgent%20Pandemic%20Pack%20Requisition%20Form%20280721.pdf>
- Remind all relevant staff of the pack, it's location and associated guidance to ensure medicines are used as appropriate
- Ensure prescribers (including secondary care prescribers) are made aware of the availability of the pack and its contents. This will ensure immediate treatment and avoid duplicating stock of medicines.

Nursing Homes should contact the RQIA pharmacy team if they have any queries on **028 9536 1111**. Further information can also be obtained by contacting a Pharmacy Adviser in your local HSCB office

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



**Joe Brogan**

**Dr Margaret O'Brien**

**Assistant Director of Integrated Care**

**Assistant Director of Integrated Care**

**Head of Pharmacy and Medicines**

**Head of GMS**

**Management**

CC. Paul Turley HSCB

Canice Ward MRG

Cathy Glover RQIA

Rodney Morton PHA

Sandra Aitcheson PHA

Kathy Fodey PHA

Gillian McCorkell PHA

Lorna Nevin PHA

Palliative Care Pharmacists (Trusts & Marie Curie)

CPNI

GPC

Royal College of Nursing (RCN)

Trevor Patterson PSNI