

**From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride**



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

www.health-ni.gov.uk

HSS(MD) 87/2020

FOR ACTION

Chief Executives, Public Health Agency/Health and Social
Care Board/HSC Trusts/ NIAS

GP Medical Advisers, Health & Social Care Board

All General Practitioners and GP Locums (for onward
distribution to practice staff)

OoHs Medical Managers (for onward distribution to staff)

RQIA

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Our Ref: HSS(MD) 87/2020

Date: 18 December 2020

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FULL CIRCULATION LIST

Dear Colleague

**UPDATED RESUSCITATION COUNCIL UK GUIDANCE ON THE MANAGEMENT
OF ANAPHYLAXIS IN THE VACCINATION SETTING**

ACTION REQUIRED

Chief Executives must ensure this information is drawn to the attention of all staff involved in the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

The PHA must ensure this information is cascaded to staff working on COVID-19 vaccine deployment and the health protection team.




The HSCB must ensure this information is cascaded to all General Practitioners and practice managers and community pharmacies for onward distribution to all staff involved in vaccination programmes.

The RQIA must ensure this information is cascaded to all Independent Sector Care Homes.

1. Further to my letter of 10 December (HSS(MD)84/2020), alerting you to the updated guidance from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) on anaphylaxis, the Resuscitation Council UK has now published updated information for use in any vaccination setting. The updated information can be found here: <https://www.resus.org.uk/about-us/news-and-events/rcuk-publishes-anaphylaxis-guidance-vaccination-settings>

2. This advice should be brought to the attention of everyone involved in vaccination programmes but particularly those involved in the COVID-19 vaccination programme. It is essential that staff involved in the vaccination programme familiarise themselves with this updated guidance.
3. Anaphylaxis following vaccination is rare, occurring at less than 1 per million doses of vaccines administered in the UK. As COVID-19 vaccines are new, any adverse reactions including anaphylaxis will be carefully monitored
4. Colleagues are reminded to report any suspected adverse reactions via the Yellow Card scheme. To make a report or find out more about the Yellow Card COVID-19 reporting site please visit: Coronavirus Yellow Card reporting site. <https://coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>
5. Once again we would like to thank all colleagues who have been involved in the roll out of the Covid-19 vaccination programme for their exceptional commitment to ensuring a rapid and safe deployment of the vaccine across Northern Ireland.

Yours sincerely

		
DR M McBRIDE Chief Medical Officer	PROF C McARDLE Chief Nursing Officer	MRS C HARRISON Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

Circulation List

Director of Public Health/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 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 Consultants, Occupational Health Physicians and School Medical Leads*)
 Nursing Directors, 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*)

Medicines Management Pharmacists, HSC Board (*for cascade to prescribing advisers*)

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

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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

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>