



For action and cascade to relevant individuals and health professionals by -

Assistant Director Integrated Care HSCB
Director of Nursing PHA
Directors of Pharmacy and Medicines Management, HSC Trusts
Executive Directors of Nursing, HSC Trusts
Non-Medical Prescribing Leads, HSC Trusts
GP practices
Community Pharmacies
RQIA (*for cascade to private hospitals/clinics and any other relevant care facilities*)

From: The Chief Pharmaceutical Officer
Dr Norman Morrow FPS
Room D4.7, Castle Buildings
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Our Ref: DH1/12/104921
Date: 30 April 2012

For information -

HSC Business Services Organisation
Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland
Community Pharmacy Northern Ireland
Ulster Chemists Association
Nursing and Midwifery Council
Royal College Nursing
Royal College Midwives
NI General Practitioners Committee
British Medical Association NI
Pharmacy and Nursing Leads, University of Ulster
Pharmacy and Nursing Leads, QUB
NI Centre for Pharmacy Learning and Development
NI Practice and Education Council
In service Nurse Education

Dear Colleague,

Amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002 will be introduced on 10 May 2012 to allow a nurse independent prescriber and a pharmacist independent prescriber to prescribe controlled drugs as described in the attached Department circular DH1/12/112169.

This letter provides notice of the changes and requests that consideration is given to the implications for clinical governance, service delivery, Accountable Officers' duties, safe handling of CDs and education within your organisations and that the necessary actions are taken to ensure safe implementation within the HSC and Independent Sector as appropriate.

The attached circular detailing the amending regulations has been issued by the Department to pharmacists and you are requested to circulate it to nurse independent prescribers and other relevant individuals and healthcare professionals within your organisation as necessary.

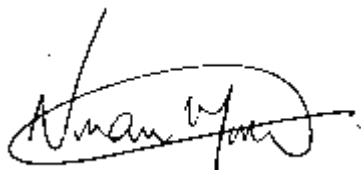
The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland and the Nursing and Midwifery Council have indicated their intention to update relevant standards and professional guidance for their registrants. The Department also intends to update the guidance documents; Safer

Management of Controlled Drugs – a Guide to Good Practice in Primary Care in Northern Ireland and Safer Management of Controlled Drugs – a Guide to Good Practice in Secondary Care in Northern Ireland.

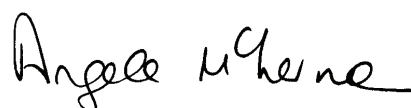
The Department has been advised that no related changes to GMS or Pharmaceutical Regulations are required to accommodate the effects of the amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002 outlined in the circular DH1/12/112169.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norman Morrow', written over a horizontal line.

NORMAN C MORROW
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angela McLernon', written over a horizontal line.

ANGELA McLERNON
Chief Nursing Officer (Acting)

CC
Chief Medical Officer
Chief Dental Officer