

To:
CMO/CPO/CNO
Health Development Policy Branch
Medicines Regulatory Group,
Trust Medical Directors,
Trust Heads of Pharmacy,
PSNI, CPNI, NICPLD, RCGP, GPC, RCPsych,
All GPs, All Community Pharmacists,

Tel : 028 90553782
Fax : 028 90553622

www.hscboard.hscni.net

4th December 2013

Dear Colleague,


**Re: Revised Northern Ireland Primary and Secondary Care Opioid
Substitute Treatment Guidelines (2013)**

Guidelines on providing a substitute prescribing service in Northern Ireland were first produced in 2004. Since then there have been significant developments in the management of addiction, and this new guidance document reflects these developments. The guidelines were developed by a multidisciplinary team with expert knowledge and substantial experience in treating opioid addiction across Northern Ireland; see appendix 4 of the document for membership of the working group.

The guidelines are intended for all those involved in providing support for drug misusers, especially those providing pharmacological interventions as a component of drug misuse treatment. This includes community addiction teams, GPs, prison staff and pharmacists. It should be noted treatment should only be initiated by those with specialist training, expertise and experience.

The guidelines are available on the Publications section of the PHA website at www.publichealth.hscni.net (full link below) and have been distributed to those working in the area of addiction services.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Brenda Bradley
Pharmacy Lead - Medicines Governance and Public Health