

Mrs Cathy Harrison
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

Mrs Jenny Keane
Chief Allied Health Professional Officer



Chief Executive, HSCB (*for onward distribution as necessary*)
Chief Executive, HSC Trusts (*for onward distribution as necessary*)
Chief Executive, BSO (*for onward distribution as necessary*)
Assistant Director Integrated Care, Head of Pharmacy
And Medicines Management, HSC Board (*for onward distribution to Community Pharmacies and GP Practices*)
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PLEASE SEE ATTACHED THE FULL CIRCULATION LIST

Dear Colleague,

CLARITY ON PRESCRIBING RIGHTS FOR HEALTH AND CARE PROFESSIONS COUNCIL (HCPC) REGISTERED THERAPEUTIC RADIOGRAPHERS, DIETITIANS AND PARAMEDICS IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

The purpose of this letter is to provide clarity on the current position regarding prescribing rights for Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) registered therapeutic radiographers, dietitians and paramedics in Northern Ireland.

Over recent years there has been an ongoing programme to expand the number of non-medical health care professionals who may prescribe drugs as independent or supplementary prescribers.

Independent prescribing is prescribing by an appropriate practitioner responsible and accountable for the assessment of patients with undiagnosed or diagnosed conditions and for decisions about the clinical management required, including prescribing medicines.

Supplementary prescribing is a voluntary prescribing partnership between an independent prescriber and a supplementary prescriber, to implement an agreed patient-specific clinical management plan with the patient's agreement.

Legislation is currently in place through the UK wide Human Medicines Regulations (HMRs) 2012 to permit therapeutic radiographers and paramedics to act as independent prescribers and dietitians to carry out the role of a supplementary prescriber. This is subject to the completion of appropriate training and registration with the HCPC.

Currently in Northern Ireland such professionals are permitted to prescribe in secondary care only and further legislative changes are required to enable prescribing in primary care.

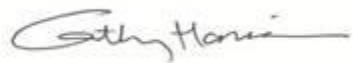
The Department has commenced the work needed to amend the Pharmaceutical Services Regulations (NI) 1997 and Health and Personal Social Services (General Medical Services Contracts) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 to enable prescribing in a primary care setting. A further update on these changes will be available in due course.

The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) is providing advice to the UK Government on the independent prescribing of controlled drugs by non-medical prescribers including paramedics and therapeutic radiographers and it is anticipated that amendments to relevant Misuse of Drugs legislation will be made later this year to enable such prescribing.

Individuals must prescribe within their level of professional competence and in line with all legislative requirements.

I would be grateful if you could ensure this is cascaded for the attention of relevant staff within your organisation.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Cathy Harrison
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer



Mrs Jenny Keane
Chief Allied Health
Professional Officer

Circulation List

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