

To:
Trust Chief Executives
Trust Medical Directors
Executive Directors of Nursing
Trust Heads of Pharmacy and
Medicines Management

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29th October 2020

Dear Colleague

UPDATE ON NORTHERN IRELAND HSC TRUST DISPENSING ON DISCHARGE FROM HOSPITAL

You will be aware of the DH policy on discharge medication, as set out in the 2004 circular HSS (SC) 08/04. This circular introduced a policy change to the quantity of discharge medication to be supplied, increasing from 3 days' supply to 28 days' supply (where appropriate).

Assurances were sought and received from Trusts in March of this year around adherence to this circular. Additionally, Trust Pharmacy Staff were asked to lead on a review of Trust arrangements for dispensing on discharge, taking into account the recommendations of the circular and current Trust dispensing arrangements, and to produce a regional guidance document around the quantities of medicines to be supplied at discharge under a range of circumstances. This document has now been finalised and is attached for your information.

Actions for Trusts

Please ensure that:

- All Trust staff are made aware of this guidance and of the need to adhere to the principles that are outlined in it
- Relevant Trust policies are reviewed and revised where appropriate to take account of these principles
- Steps are taken to minimise as far as possible the number of patients provided with only 3 days' supply of medicines e.g. out-of-hours or unplanned discharges.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Joe Brogan
Assistant Director of Integrated Care
Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management

CC. GPs Practices
OOHs
Community Pharmacies

Enc. 28 day supply policy