

**From the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer
Mrs Cathy Harrison**



Castle Buildings
Stormont
BELFAST
BT4 3SQ

Tel: 028 90 523219

Email: cathy.harrison@health-ni.gov.uk

Date: 20th May 2020

FOR ACTION

Chief Executives, Health and Social Care
Board/Business Services Organisation (*for
onward transmission to relevant staff*)
Assistant Director of Integrated Care, Head of
Pharmacy and Medicines Management, HSCB (*for
onward distribution to Community Pharmacies*).
Head of General Medical Services, HSCB (*for
onward distribution to GP Practices*)
GP Medical Advisers, Health and Social Care
Board.

Dear Colleagues,

SERIOUS SHORTAGE PROTOCOL – Fluoxetine 40mg capsules

I refer to my letter issued on 31 October 2019, when I explained that the Department will, at certain times, issue a Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) to manage and mitigate the impact of medication shortages and enable community pharmacy contractors to supply against the protocol rather than a prescription.

I am writing to inform you that there is currently a supply issue with fluoxetine 40mg capsules and a decision has been taken to put in place an SSP to substitute Fluoxetine 40mg capsules with 2 x Fluoxetine 20mg capsules. This SSP will come into operation from **20 May 2020** and has an expiry date of **20 July 2020**.

Details on the SSP are attached separately as a pdf to this letter and will also be available on the Business Services Organisation (BSO) dedicated page on its website - www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/3063.htm

Action Required

All relevant staff should be made aware of this SSP. I would ask the HSCB to bring this information to the attention of GP Practices and Community Pharmacists directly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cathy Harrison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Cathy Harrison
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer