

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



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

www.health-ni.gov.uk

FOR ACTION

Assistant Director of Integrated Care, Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management, HSCB (*for onward distribution to Community Pharmacies and General Practices*).

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Dear Colleagues,

SERIOUS SHORTAGE PROTOCOL – Fluoxetine 10mg tablets

I am writing to clarify the status in Northern Ireland of a Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) that has been issued today on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, to allow the supply of fluoxetine 10mg **capsules** in place of **tablets**, to help mitigate a shortage of Fluoxetine 10mg tablets.

Please note that a decision has been taken that the SSP for Fluoxetine 10mg tablets will not be implemented in Northern Ireland at this time. However, the Department will keep matters under review and further advice will follow if that position changes.

In Northern Ireland, information and a management plan to assist clinicians and pharmacists in managing the current supply issue with fluoxetine tablets is currently being finalised, and once available will be hosted on the BSO website <http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/3065.htm>

Further information on SSPs, including operational guidance on SSPs is also available. www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/3063.htm

Action Required

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

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Cathy Harrison