

**From the Chief Medical Officer  
Dr Michael McBride**



Department of  
**Health**

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

[www.health-ni.gov.uk](http://www.health-ni.gov.uk)

**HSS(MD) 32/2020**

**FOR ACTION**

Chief Executives, Public Health Agency/Health and Social  
Care Board/HSC Trusts/ NIAS

GP Medical Advisers, Health & Social Care Board  
All General Practitioners and GP Locums (for onward  
distribution to practice staff)

OOHs Medical Managers (for onward distribution to staff)

**PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FULL CIRCULATION LIST**

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Our Ref: HSS(MD) 32/2020

Date: 5 May 2020

Dear Colleague

**YELLOW CARD REPORTING SITE FOR HEALTHCARE PRODUCTS USED IN  
CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has today launched a dedicated Yellow Card reporting site for healthcare products that are used in Coronavirus (COVID-19) treatment to be easily reported:

<https://coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>

Healthcare professionals, patients and carers are asked to report all suspected side effects to medicines or medical device adverse incidents related to COVID-19 treatment. This also includes medicines that patients and healthcare professionals are using off-label to treat COVID-19. Reporting for clinical trials should be in line with the trial protocols.

Reporting will enable the MHRA to rapidly identify new and emerging side effects and medical device issues which may not have been previously known about, including diagnostic tests for COVID-19. This includes any medicines taken by patients to manage long-term, or pre-existing conditions that may influence the disease or have any potential interactions. The MHRA is closely monitoring any new or emerging safety signals in relation to medicines and medical devices used in patients with COVID-19.

Any healthcare product used in the treatment of COVID-19 can be reported, this includes medical devices such as ventilators and respiratory support devices, testing kits, certain protective personal equipment that are classified as medical devices, as

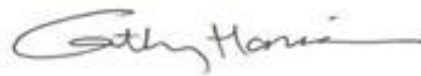
well as medicines that are being used in COVID-19 treatment. For more information on what to report please go to <https://coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk> During the pandemic, Yellow Card reporting for suspected side effects has decreased, especially from healthcare professionals. The Yellow Card scheme continues to operate as usual and safety concerns should still be reported to the MHRA. Further information on Yellow Card reporting during the pandemic can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-yellow-card-scheme-guidance-for-healthcare-professionals>

We appreciate that healthcare professionals are under pressure at this challenging time, but reporting remains essential both to understand the safety of existing medicines and medical devices used in treating COVID-19, and to identify new safety issues. Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



**DR MICHAEL McBRIDE**  
Chief Medical Officer



**MRS CATHY HARRISON**  
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

## Circulation List

Director of Public Health/Medical Director, Public Health Agency (*for onward distribution to all relevant health protection staff*)  
Assistant Director Public Health (Health Protection), Public Health Agency  
Director of Nursing, Public Health Agency  
Assistant Director of Pharmacy and Medicines Management, Health and Social Care Board (*for onward distribution to Community Pharmacies*)  
Directors of Pharmacy HSC Trusts  
Director of Social Care and Children, HSCB  
Family Practitioner Service Leads, Health and Social Care Board (*for cascade to GP Out of Hours services*)  
Medical Directors, HSC Trusts (*for onward distribution to all Consultants, Occupational Health Physicians and School Medical Leads*)  
Nursing Directors, HSC Trusts (*for onward distribution to all Community Nurses, and Midwives*)  
Directors of Children's Services, HSC Trusts  
RQIA (*for onward transmission to all independent providers including independent hospitals*)  
Medicines Management Pharmacists, HSC Board (*for cascade to prescribing advisers*)  
Regional Medicines Information Service, Belfast HSC Trust  
Regional Pharmaceutical Procurement Service, Northern HSC Trust  
Professor Donna Fitzsimons, Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery QUB  
Professor Sonja McIlpatrick, Head of School of Nursing, University of Ulster  
Caroline Lee, CEC  
Donna Gallagher, Open University  
Professor Paul McCarron, Head of School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, UU  
Professor Carmel Hughes, Head of School, School of Pharmacy, QUB  
Professor Colin Adair, Director of the NI Centre for Pharmacy Learning and Development, QUB  
Joe Brogan, Assistant Director of Integrated Care, HSCB  
Michael Donaldson (*for distribution to all General Dental Practitioners*)  
Trade Union Side

This letter is available on the Department of Health website at
  
<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/professional-medical-and-environmental-health-advice/hssmd-letters-and-urgent-communications>