

**SAFETY AND QUALITY
REMINDER OF BEST PRACTICE GUIDANCE**

Subject	Safe Disposal of Patients' Drugs in the Community
HSCB reference number	SQR/SAI/2015/005 (PHC)
Programme of care	Directorate of Integrated Care

LEARNING SOURCE			
SAI/Early Alert/Adverse incident	✓	Complaint	
Audit or other review		Coroner's inquest	
Other (Please specify)			

SUMMARY OF EVENT
Investigation of an SAI revealed that drugs that were no longer required by the patients for whom they had been prescribed, had been brought by nursing staff to the health centre and held as "central stock". They were then used for the immediate treatment of palliative care patients in the practice prior to a prescription being written and/or dispensed for those patients.

REQUIREMENTS UNDER CURRENT GUIDANCE
<p>All HSC staff are reminded that, in line with regulatory and best practice requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients' own drugs should not be re-used. If a patient dies or no longer requires drugs that have been prescribed for them, arrangements should be made to ensure that the drugs are disposed of safely. For example, they may be returned to a community pharmacy for destruction; • Each employing organisation should have guidance in place for staff and staff should be familiar with the guidance. <p>All regulatory and organisational requirements should be closely adhered to regarding to the prescribing, supply and administration of CDs. For further information, please refer to DHSSPS guidance on the safer management of controlled drugs in primary and secondary care: http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/safer-management-of-controlled-drugs-a-guide-to-good-practice-in-primary-care-version.pdf and http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/safer_management_of_controlled_drugs_a_guide_to_good_practice_in_secondary_care_2012.pdf</p> <p>Guidance and an audit tool for treatment rooms and community facilities regarding the management and storage of medicines on-site are being developed and will be issued in due course.</p>

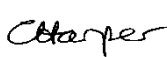
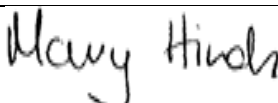

ACTION REQUIRED

Action for Trusts and GP practices:

1. Please disseminate this letter to relevant staff.

Action for RQIA:

1. Please disseminate this letter to relevant independent sector organisations.

Date issued	19 May 2015		
Signed:			
Issued by	Dr Carolyn Harper Medical Director/Director of Public Health	Mrs Mary Hinds Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professionals	Joe Brogan AD, Directorate of Integrated Care, Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management

	To – for Action	Copy		To – for Action	Copy
HSC Trusts			PHA		
CEXs	✓		CEX		✓
Medical Director		✓	Medical Director/Director of Public Health		✓
Directors of Nursing		✓	Director of Nursing/AHPs		✓
Directors of Social Services		✓	PHA Duty Room		
Governance Leads		✓	AD Health Protection		
Directors of Acute Services		✓	AD Service Development/Screening		✓
Directors of Community/Elderly Services		✓	AD Health Improvement		
Heads of Pharmacy		✓	AD Nursing		✓
Allied Health Professional Leads		✓	AD Allied Health Professionals		
NIAS			Clinical Director Safety Forum		✓
CEX		✓	HSCB		
Medical Director		✓	CEX		✓
RQIA			Director of Integrated Care	✓	
CEX		✓	Director of Social Services		✓
Medical Director		✓	Director of Commissioning		
Director of Nursing		✓	Alerts Office		✓
Director for Social Care		✓	Dir PMSI & Corporate Services		✓
NIMDTA			Primary Care (through Integrated Care)		
CEX / PG Dean		✓	GPs	✓	
QUB			Community Pharmacists		✓
Dean of Medical School		✓	Dentists		
Head of Nursing School		✓	Open University		
Head of Social Work School		✓	Head of Nursing Branch		✓
Head of Pharmacy School		✓	DHSSPS		
Head of Dentistry School			CMO office		✓
UU			CNO office		✓
Head of Nursing School		✓	CPO office		✓
Head of Social Work School		✓	CSSO office		
Head of Pharmacy School		✓	CDO office		
Head of School of Health Sciences (AHP Lead)			Safety, Quality & Standards Office		✓
Clinical Education Centre		✓	NI Social Care Council		
NIPEC		✓	Safeguarding Board NI		
GAIN Office		✓	NICE Implementation Facilitator		✓
NICPLD		✓	Coroners Service for Northern Ireland		✓

