

To:  
Community Pharmacy Contractors  
(for cascade to all community  
pharmacists/locums)

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[www.hscboard.hscni.net](http://www.hscboard.hscni.net)

14<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear Colleague



## **PHARMACY FIRST SERVICE - UPDATE**

As previously outlined the existing Minor Ailments (MA) Service will now become part of the **Pharmacy First Service**. Pharmacy First for everyday health conditions will launch publicly in March 2022 with associated press releases and social media promotion.

### **1. Pharmacy First for everyday health conditions**

There are no planned changes to the service this year, other than the name change. Patients will be encouraged to see their community pharmacist first for advice and treatment for the 13 conditions currently available under the MA Service. Service resources including treatment algorithms and formulary are available on the [Primary Care Intranet](#) (PCI).

### **Pharmacy First Service Promotion**

Newly designed promotional materials are available to download from the [PCI](#). These include high resolution posters as well as resources for use on social media, Twitter and Instagram. Printed posters and sticky bag labels will be distributed to all community pharmacies. Please use the posters and social media to advise the general public of the availability of these services in your pharmacy. Please also share any unused posters with GP practices or community groups/centres in your area.

Materials relating to the previous MA service such as posters and flyers should now be removed from community pharmacies.

## 2. Pharmacy First for Winter Conditions

Contracted community pharmacies will continue to offer the Pharmacy First Service for [Winter Conditions](#) until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Please continue to submit activity forms to local offices each month as these will inform funding for future pharmacy services.

## 3. Pharmacy First for Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC)

The ECHO training session which was delivered live on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February was recorded and is now available on the ECHO Moodle site. This recording must be viewed by all pharmacists prior to service delivery. Please share these details with pharmacists and locums working in your organisation.

Pharmacists must be registered with EHCO to view the recording. The link to registration is <https://tinyurl.com/C19CommPharmacyECHO>. There is also a short video available [here](#) to assist with registration. Any problems please contact Elaine Kane at [e.kane@hospiceuk.org](mailto:e.kane@hospiceuk.org) Tel: 028 95582393.

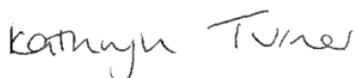
*Further correspondence in relation to the commencement date of the EHC service will be issued in due course.*

## 4. Pharmacy First for the management of Uncomplicated UTI in women aged 16 to 64 years - PILOT

This pilot service has been available in [62 pilot pharmacies](#) across NI since July 2021. Evaluation of the service is currently underway. Feedback from pharmacists, GP practices and service users has been very positive. It is anticipated that this service will be rolled-out across all community pharmacies later this year following positive evaluation and financial approval.

If you have any queries in relation to the Pharmacy First Service please contact your local pharmacy adviser.

Yours sincerely



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**Kathryn Turner**  
**Pharmacy Lead**  
**Health and Social Care Board**



<b>Contact Details for Local Integrated Care Offices:</b>				
<b>Belfast</b>	<b>South Eastern</b>	<b>Southern</b>	<b>Northern</b>	<b>Western</b>
12-22 Linenhall Street Belfast BT2 8BS	12-22 Linenhall Street Belfast BT2 8BS	Tower Hill Armagh. BT61 9DR	County Hall 182 Galgorm Road Ballymena BT42 1QB	Gransha Park House 15 Gransha Park Clooney Road Londonderry BT47 6FN
Tel: 028 9536 3926	Tel: 028 9536 3926	Tel: 028 9536 2104	Tel: 028 9536 2812	Tel: 028 9536 1082
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