

From the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer
Mrs Cathy Harrison



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

www.health-ni.gov.uk

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.

Castle Buildings

Stormont

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Our Ref

Date: 31 March 2021

Dear Colleagues,

SERIOUS SHORTAGE PROTOCOL – Fluoxetine 40mg capsules

You will recall 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 further supply issue with fluoxetine 40mg capsules and a decision has been taken to extend the expiry date of the current SSP009 which authorises community pharmacies to substitute Fluoxetine 40mg capsules with 2 x Fluoxetine 20mg capsules. The revised expiry date for this SSP is now **17 May 2021**.

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