

**From the Chief Medical Officer  
Professor Sir Michael McBride**



**HSS(MD)33/2025**

**FOR ACTION**

Chief Executives, Public Health Agency/HSC Trusts/NIAS  
Chief Operating Officer, SPPG  
GP Medical Advisers, SPPG  
All General Practitioners and GP Locums (for onward  
distribution to practice staff) and Community Pharmacies  
OOHs Medical Managers (for onward distribution to staff)

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Our Ref: HSS(MD)33/2025  
Date: 24 September 2025

**PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FULL CIRCULATION LIST**

Dear Colleague

**MHRA DRUG SAFETY UPDATE: Paracetamol and pregnancy - reminder that taking paracetamol during pregnancy remains safe**

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued the below Drug Safety Update.

Healthcare Professionals are asked to note and action the advice for healthcare professionals, advice for healthcare professionals to provide to patients, and recommendations contained within the Drug Safety Update.

Please find the link to the complete **MHRA Drug Safety Update** included below:

**[Paracetamol and pregnancy - reminder that taking paracetamol during pregnancy remains safe](#)**

Patients should be reminded and reassured that there is no evidence that taking paracetamol during pregnancy causes autism in children. Paracetamol is recommended as the first-choice pain reliever for pregnant women, used at the lowest dose and for the shortest duration. It also acts as an antipyretic and is therefore used to treat fever.

**Reporting advice**

Healthcare professionals, patients, and caregivers are asked to submit reports using the Yellow Card scheme electronically using:

- the [Yellow Card website](#).

- the Yellow Card app; download from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#)
- some clinical IT systems for healthcare professionals

When reporting suspected adverse drug reactions, please provide as much information as possible, including information about medical history, any concomitant medication, onset timing, and treatment dates.

For queries or more information, please contact [info@mhra.gov.uk](mailto:info@mhra.gov.uk).

You can subscribe to the MHRA new Safety Roundup bulletin [here](#). The latest MHRA Safety Roundup is available at the following link: [MHRA Safety Roundup](#).

Yours sincerely



**PROFESSOR SIR MICHAEL MCBRIDE**  
Chief Medical Officer



**PROFESSOR 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, SPPG (*for onward distribution to SPPG Pharmacy and Medicines Management Team and community pharmacists*)  
Directors of Pharmacy HSC Trusts  
Director of Social Care and Children, SPPG  
Family Practitioner Service Leads, SPPG (*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*)  
Regional Medicines Information Service, Belfast HSC Trust  
Regional Pharmaceutical Procurement Service, Northern HSC Trust  
Professor Kenda Crozier, Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery QUB  
Andrea Shepherd, Head of School of Nursing, Ulster University  
Heather Finlay, Head of HSC Clinical Education Centre  
Maurice Devine, Open University  
Professor Paul McCarron, Head of School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Ulster University  
Professor Gavin Andrews, Head of School, School of Pharmacy, QUB  
Postgraduate Pharmacy Dean, NI Centre for Pharmacy Learning and Development, QUB  
Michael Donaldson, Head of Dental Services, SPPG (*for distribution to all General Dental Practitioners*)  
Raymond Curran, Head of Ophthalmic Services, SPPG (*for distribution to Community Optometrists*)  
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Prof Louise Dubras, Ulster University  
Dr Kathy Cullen, Director of the Centre for Medical Education at QUB

This letter is available on the Department of Health website at

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/professional-medical-and-environmental-health->