

From Kathryn Turner
Head of Pharmacy & Medicines Management
(Interim), SPPG



By email

To Community Pharmacies in
Newtownabbey, Greenisland,
Carrickfergus, Whitehead and Larne

**Strategic Planning and Performance
Group**

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Date: 24th March 2026

Dear Colleague,

**RE: COMMUNITY PHARMACY OVER-THE-COUNTER CODEINE BRIEF
INTERVENTION & REFERRAL PILOT SERVICE - LINK TO RECORDING OF THE
MANDATORY TRAINING WEBINAR & UPDATE ON DATA SHARING PROCESSES**

Further to [correspondence](#) issued on 27th February 2026, this letter is intended to provide an update on the processes for data sharing aligned to the Pilot Service and contains a link to the recording of the ASCERT “Codeine Awareness and Brief Interventions for Pharmacists” mandatory training which took place on Thursday 12th March 2026.

The training event can be accessed via the link [Codeine Awareness and Brief Interventions for Pharmacists Webinar](#) using the passcode: bmC!S4m+

N.B. All Pharmacists must complete the training prior to providing the service and share the key points with all relevant staff. If you have any issues or concerns in relation to accessing the training please contact Elena Brewer (elena@ascert.biz).

Please be reminded that, in advance of delivering the service, Community Pharmacies must submit a contract. Therefore, if you haven’t already done so, please return a contract on MS Forms via the following link: <https://forms.office.com/e/r8CHXZSsW1> **by 5pm on Monday 30th March 2026.** The Public Health Agency (PHA) will be issuing printed copies of some resources to all participating Community Pharmacies. Therefore, timely submission of contracts will ensure resources are delivered prior to commencement of the service.

Data Sharing Processes

Completion of the Data Sharing Agreement

Prior to commencing the service, a data sharing agreement must be in place between each Community Pharmacy and the Northern Health and Social Care Trust (NHSCT). A template is available on the [BSO Harm Reduction website](#).

Please complete a Data Sharing Agreement and send a signed copy via email to substanceuse@hscni.net. A copy of the agreement, containing signatures from both the Community Pharmacy and the NHSCT, will be returned to the Pharmacy via secure email for record keeping.

Password protection of sensitive information sent via email

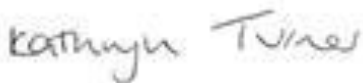
NHSCT policy requires that sensitive information sent via email is password protected. Therefore, emails sent from the NHSCT to Community Pharmacy as part of this Pilot Service will be password protected. Community Pharmacy should also, where possible and as required, ensure that sensitive information sent via email to the NHSCT is password protected.

Please note, an agreed password will be used by the NHSCT for the purpose of this Pilot Service and will be shared directly with participating Community Pharmacies prior to commencement of the Pilot Service.

If you have any queries in relation to this pilot service, please contact Michael.McCabe@hscni.net (Pharmacy Advisor, SPPG) in the first instance.

Finally, thank you for your interest in providing this vital Community Pharmacy Harm Reduction Service.

Yours sincerely,



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Management (Interim), SPPG



Stephanie Hanlon,
Joint Substance Use Lead,
PHA



Dr Lisa Byers, PHD, IP, MPSNI
Controlled Drugs Accountable Officer