

From the Chief Medical Officer
Professor Sir Michael McBride



HSS(MD) 20/2026

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*)
OOH Medical Managers (*for onward distribution to
staff*)

Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast BT4 3SQ
Tel: 028 90 520653
Email: cmooffice@health-ni.gov.uk

Your Ref:
Our Ref: HSS(MD) 20/2026
Date: 13 May 2026

Dear Colleague

MHRA DRUG SAFETY UPDATE: Finasteride and Dutasteride – updated safety warnings for psychiatric side effects and sexual dysfunction

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:

[Finasteride and Dutasteride – updated safety warnings for psychiatric side effects and sexual dysfunction](#)

The MHRA has reviewed the evidence for finasteride and dutasteride and the risk of suicidal thoughts and behaviours and has recommended further measures to minimise this risk.

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.

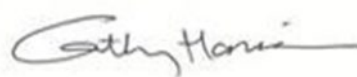
For queries or more information, please contact info@mhra.gov.uk.

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



Prof Sir Michael McBride
Chief Medical Officer



Prof 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

Stephanie Foster, 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

