

From Michael Donaldson
Head of Dental Services SPPG



Strategic Planning and Performance Group
Dental Department, County Hall
182 Galgorm Road
Ballymena
BT42 1QE

Date: 13 January 2026

Dear Colleague

Supply of Medication to Patients from Stock Held in the Dental Practice.

This letter is intended to provide an update on the supply of medication to patients from stock that is ordered in and held in the dental practice.

If, in the dentist's clinical opinion, medications such as antibiotics or analgesics are required, and the patient requires an ongoing supply, our pharmacy colleagues in the SPPG have recommended that best practice would be to provide an **individual patient prescription** for the patient to get dispensed at a community pharmacy. This ensures that proper packaging, labelling and patient information leaflets are provided by the community pharmacy.

If the medication is being provided directly to the patient by the dentist, such as during out of hours or when a local pharmacy cannot be accessed, they should be supplied with the same labelling, packaging, information leaflets etc. as would be provided through a community pharmacy. This role will fall on the dentist personally to carry out as it cannot be delegated. Guidance from Specialist Pharmacy Service on the requirements for labelling and packaging of medicines supplied by dental teams is available at this link: <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/labelling-and-packaging-medicines-supplied-by-dental-teams/>

If you have any concerns or queries in relation to this letter please contact

David Marshall, SPPG Dental Adviser at David.Marshall@hscni.net

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Donaldson".

Michael Donaldson

Head of Dental Services SPPG