

Sent by email only

To: Trust Chief Executives for cascade
as per attached distribution list

General Practitioners
Community Pharmacists

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5 January 2022

Dear Colleagues

**HSC AGREED LIST OF PAEDIATRIC LIQUIDS: STANDARDISATION OF THE MOST
COMMON LIQUID MEDICINES IN PAEDIATRICS**

It has been recognised that adverse incidents involving medicines are a common cause of avoidable morbidity. Within the paediatric setting in particular, medicines related incidents occur more frequently and can have significant consequences.

A project was undertaken in 2017 to improve the safety, regarding the prescribing of liquids, as children make the transition between secondary and primary care. As a result of this work, the five Trust Pharmacy Departments in Northern Ireland standardised the products that they stock and dispense/supply. This list has now been reviewed.

The agreed formulations are set out in the attached guidance and are available to download on the Specials page of the [Northern Ireland Formulary website](#). The purpose of this letter is to set out the implementation of this guidance.

Action for Trusts:

- Relevant staff to be advised of the guidance and apply it as appropriate to in-patients, discharge information and out-patient treatment recommendations.
- Trust Pharmacy Departments should stock the formulations listed.

- Any changes to formulation used should be clearly highlighted in discharge or outpatient letters.

Action for GP practices:

- **For new patients**
 - Trusts should recommend the formulations as listed.
 - Please ensure that those formulations are selected when presented with particular attention to the formulation and strength specified.
 - Where the Trust clinician has specified an alternative formulation to those listed, please confirm with the initiating clinician.
- **For existing patients**
 - Decide if appropriate for switch on a case-by-case basis. A standard list formulation may reduce risk of error at interface, particularly for regular inpatients. It may also be a more appropriate formulation. However any switch should be carefully carried out, ensuring the parent/carer is fully informed of any dose changes.


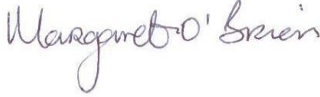
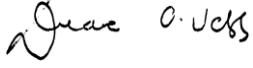
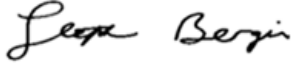
Action for Community Pharmacists:

- Ensure that all dispensing staff are aware of this guidance.

This guidance will be reviewed as licensed products become available.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact your HSCB Pharmacy Adviser.

Yours sincerely,

Date issued	5 th January 2022		
Signed:			
Issued by	Mr Joe Brogan AD of Integrated Care Head of Pharmacy & Medicines Management	Dr Margaret O'Brien AD of Integrated Care Head of General Medical Services	Mr Rodney Morton Director of Nursing Allied Health Professionals
Signed			
Issued by	Dr Stephen Bergin, Director of Public Health and Medical Director (Interim)		

RE: HSC agreed list of paediatric liquids: standardisation of the most common liquid medicines in paediatrics

	To – for Action	Copy		To – for Action	Copy
HSC Trusts			PHA		
CEXs	✓		CEX		
Medical Director		✓	Medical Director/Director of Public Health		
Directors of Nursing		✓	Director of Nursing/AHPs		
Directors of Social Services			PHA Duty Room		
Governance Leads			AD Health Protection		
Directors of Acute Services			AD Service Development/Screening		
Directors of Community/Elderly Services			AD Health Improvement		
Heads of Pharmacy		✓	AD Nursing		
Allied Health Professional Leads			AD Allied Health Professionals		
Directors of Human Resources			Clinical Director Safety Forum		
NIAS			HSCB		
CEX			CEX		
Medical Director			Director of Integrated Care	✓	
RQIA			Director of Social Services		
CEX			Director of Commissioning		
Director of Quality Improvement			Alerts Office		✓
Director of Quality Assurance			Dir PMSI & Corporate Services		
NIMDTA			Primary Care (through Integrated Care)		
CEX / PG Dean			GPs	✓	
QUB			Community Pharmacists	✓	
Dean of Medical School			Dentists		
Head of Nursing School			BSO		
Head of Social Work School			Chief Executive		
Head of Pharmacy School			Director of Human Resources		
Head of Dentistry School			Head of Procurement		
UU			DoH		
Head of Nursing School			CMO office		
Head of Social Work School			CNO office		
Head of Pharmacy School			CPO office		
Head of School of Health Sciences (AHP Lead)			CSSO office		
Open University			CDO office		
Head of Nursing Branch			Safety, Quality & Standards Office		
Clinical Education Centre			NI Social Care Council		
NIPEC			Safeguarding Board NI		
NICPLD			NICE Implementation Facilitator		
NI Medicines Governance Team Leader for Secondary Care			Coroners Service for Northern Ireland		

