

**Sent by email only**

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

General Practitioners  
Community Pharmacists

**HSCB Ref: ICPL/2018/027**

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6<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Dear Colleagues

**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 has recently been undertaken to improve the safety of prescribing of liquid medicines for children. The focus of the project has been standardising the formulations of the most commonly used medicines that are initiated in secondary care and then managed in primary care. The agreed formulations are set out in the attached guidance and are available to download at:

<http://niformulary.hscni.net/Formulary/Adult/specials/Pages/default.aspx>.

The purpose of this letter is to set out the implementation of this guidance.

**Action for Trusts:**

- All staff as appropriate to be advised of the guidance noting that when selecting a liquid medicine covered by this guidance:
  - o Products should be prescribed exactly as described on the list, with particular attention to the formulation and strength specified.
  - o When a licensed product is available, this should be used in preference to any unlicensed formulation.
  - o This guidance applies to both in-patient discharge information and out-patient treatment recommendations

- Trust Pharmacy Departments should stock the formulations listed

### **Action for GPs:**

- **Existing patients** stabilised on formulations and/or strengths other than those listed should not routinely have their medications changed
- **For new patients**
  - o Trusts should be recommending formulations as listed. Please ensure that those formulations are selected when presented with particular attention to the formulation and strength specified.
  - o Where the Trust clinician has specified an alternative formulation to those listed, please confirm with the initiating clinician

### **Action for Community Pharmacists**

- Ensure that all dispensing staff are aware of this guidance and note that the implementation of this guidance will be focused on prescribing for new patients.

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.

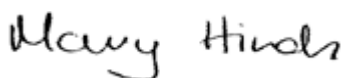
Yours sincerely,



**Joe Brogan**  
Assistant Director of Integrated Care  
Head of Pharmacy and Medicines  
Management





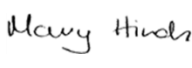

**Dr Margaret O'Brien**  
Assistant Director of Integrated Care  
Head of General Medical Services



**Mary Hinds**  
Executive Director of Nursing  
and Allied Health Professionals



**pp Dr Carolyn Harper**  
Medical Director/Director of Public Health

<b>Date issued</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> February 2018			
<b>Signed:</b>				
<b>Issued by</b>	Joe Brogan AD of Integrated Care Head of Pharmacy & Medicines Management	Dr Margaret O'Brien AD of Integrated Care Head of General Medical Services	Mary Hinds Executive Director of Nursing Allied Health Professionals	pp Dr Carolyn Harper Medical Director/ Director of Public and Heal

Enc.

**RE: Standardisation of The Most Common Liquid Medicines In Paediatrics – Distribution List**

	To – for Action	Copy		To – for Action	Copy
<b>HSC Trusts</b>			<b>PHA</b>		
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		
<b>NIAS</b>			<b>HSCB</b>		
CEX			CEX		
Medical Director			Director of Integrated Care	✓	
<b>RQIA</b>			Director of Social Services		
CEX			Director of Commissioning		
Medical Director			Alerts Office		✓
Director of Nursing			Dir PMSI & Corporate Services		
Director for Social Care			<b>Primary Care (through Integrated Care)</b>		
<b>NIMDTA</b>			GPs	✓	
CEX / PG Dean			Community Pharmacists	✓	
<b>QUB</b>			Dentists		
Dean of Medical School			<b>BSO</b>		
Head of Nursing School			Director of Human Resources		
Head of Social Work School			<b>Open University</b>		
Head of Pharmacy School			Head of Nursing Branch		
Head of Dentistry School			<b>DoH</b>		
<b>UU</b>			CMO office		
Head of Nursing School			CNO office		
Head of Social Work School			CPO office		
Head of Pharmacy School			CSSO office		
Head of School of Health Sciences (AHP Lead)			CDO office		
<b>Clinical Education Centre</b>			Safety, Quality & Standards Office		
<b>NIPEC</b>			<b>NI Social Care Council</b>		
<b>GAIN Office</b>			<b>Safeguarding Board NI</b>		
<b>NICPLD</b>			<b>NICE Implementation Facilitator</b>		
<b>NI Medicines Governance Team Leader for Secondary Care</b>			<b>Coroners Service for Northern Ireland</b>		