

NORTHERN IRELAND MEDICINES MANAGEMENT Newsletter

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Pilot Dietetic Hub launched



An Adult Dietetic Advice Hub has recently been launched to further support colleagues in primary care. This is in addition to the "[Guidance document](#) for review of Oral Nutritional Supplements (ONS) in Primary Care", finalised in June 2025. These interventions are in response to feedback from colleagues in primary care highlighting the need for additional resources to support the review of adult patients prescribed ONS.

The hub will operate on a Mon, Wed and Fri from 12 noon to 1pm. Primary care colleagues can speak to a Prescribing Support Dietitian by telephoning 028 94481219 or may also request call back within 48 hours via email PrescribingSupportDietetics@northerntrust.hscni.net (no patient identifiers please). Queries are accepted from **all** general practices in Northern Ireland.

The hub can be used to address **non-urgent** queries such as the following:

- Food-First Optimisation
Maximising the food-first approach to patient-centred nutritional care-plans
 - ONS Product Transition
Patients transitioning from one oral nutritional supplement to another
 - ONS De-Prescribing
Providing support to identify patients suitable to have ONS de-prescribed
 - Promoting NI Formulary Choices
Ensuring ONS choice aligns with the NI Formulary, including powdered ONS
 - Swallowing Difficulties
Patients with Dysphagia requiring amendments to their ONS, in-line with IDDSI
- A letter and video with more information can be found via this [link](#) .

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NICE Guidance Recently published:

[NICE TA 1109](#)

Managed Entry decisions:

Belantamab mafodotin (Blenrep[®])
Isatuximab (Sarclisa[®])
Encorafenib (Braftovi[®])
Belzutifan (Welireg[®])
Durvalumab (Imfinzi[®])
Garadacimab (Andembry[®])
Enfortumab (Padcev[®])
Trastuzumab deruxtecan (Enhertu[®])
Letermovir (Prevymis[®])
Dupilumab (Dupixent[®])



How are you feeling?

One in five adults In Northern Ireland has a potential mental health problem ([Health Survey NI 2023/2024](#)). The Community Pharmacy Living Well campaign for December/January focuses on the question "How are you feeling?". This highlights the importance of looking after your mental health and wellbeing by incorporating the 'Take 5 steps to wellbeing' actions. The campaign messages promote the following simple actions that can be done by everyone and can be built into everyday life:

Connect Keep learning Be active Take notice Give

Patients can be signposted to their local pharmacy to pick up an information leaflet and other resources. Visit [Living Well - Business Services Organisation \(BSO\) Website](#) to find out more and for evaluation reports for previous campaigns.

Health Service Stock Order Requisition (HS21S) – Ordering Reminders

Guidance on the use of stock requisitions was issued by the Controlled Drug Accountable Officer and Medicines Regulatory group in December 2024. It reminds that GPs should **only obtain stock for the immediate treatment** of health service patients under their care. HS21S stock forms **must** include:

- Name, address, profession and signature of the GP, locum or trainee for whom the stock is intended (the printed name and signature must be clear and legible)
- Total quantity of the drug to be supplied
- Date
- All items should be ordered in the smallest quantity original packs. Split packs **MUST NOT** be ordered, this is a legislative requirement.
- Community Pharmacies should return the HS21S Stock form to the prescriber for amendment if a split pack has been requested.

In addition:

- GPs should endorse the form **clearly with the name and address of the pharmacy** from which the stock is being obtained.
- The HS21S stock form should be **annotated with the GMC number of the doctor** requisitioning the medicines.

An updated HS21S stock requisition form came into use from 1st July 2025 and will be supplied for any new orders of HS21S forms. It includes a reminder that requisitions can **only be signed by a GP**; non-medical prescribers such as pharmacists or nurses are not permitted to sign stock orders.

| NORTHERN IRELAND HEALTH SERVICE HS 21S STOCK ORDER REQUEST FORM | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| NAME OF COMMUNITY PHARMACY _____ | |
| COMMUNITY PHARMACY ADDRESS _____ | |
| PHARMACY STAMP | |
| THIS FORM IS THE PROPERTY OF BUSINESS SERVICES ORGANISATION | CODE NUMBERS |
| SAMPLE ONLY | |
| I require the above items for immediate administration to my patients by me, or for the patient's use before a normal supply can be obtained. | |
| SIGNATURE OF PRESCRIBER _____ | GP GMC NUMBER* _____ DATE _____ |
| Name of prescriber if different from prescriber whose name is pre-printed below _____ (BLOCK CAPITALS) | |
| *PLEASE NOTE: Only GPs can order stock on HS21S. Non-Medical Prescribers must not sign this form. | |
| FORM NUMBER _____ | |

Actions for GP Practices

- Ensure stock order requisitions meet legislative requirements and best practice guidance.
 - Prescribers can continue to use current HS21S forms. Stock order forms **without a barcode** (bottom left hand corner) should no longer be used and should be destroyed in line with prescription security processes.
 - Update SOPs and train staff as required.
 - Provide information to SPPG as requested.
- SPPG monitors controlled drug (CD) ordering to seek assurance that adequate procedures are in place for the safe management and use of CDs within GP practices and that arrangements comply with [The Controlled Drugs \(Supervision of Management and Use\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2009](#). If information is not clearly identifiable from HS21S, SPPG staff may contact your practice to verify signatures or confirm missing details.

Resuscitation Guidelines Updated

The [Resuscitation Guidelines](#) (2025) have recently been updated. They provide a useful resource for healthcare professionals across the UK, and include basic and advanced life support for adults, children, and newborns.

Carers Awareness and Support

A recorded [webinar for pharmacists](#) is currently available on the NICPLD website. This aims to enhance knowledge and confidence in recognising, supporting and signposting carers to appropriate services.



Merry Christmas!

This newsletter has been produced for GP practices and community pharmacies by the DoH Strategic Planning and Performance Group Regional Pharmacy and Medicines Management Team. If you have any queries or require further information on the contents, please contact one of the [Pharmacy Advisers](#). Every effort has been made to ensure that the information included in this newsletter is correct at the time of publication. Throughout the newsletter, external links are provided to other sites. These links are provided to improve access to information and exist only for the convenience of readers of the Newsletter; SPPG cannot accept responsibility for their content. The SPPG does not necessarily endorse the views expressed within these external websites. We cannot guarantee that these links will work all of the time and we have no control over the availability of the linked pages. This newsletter is not to be used for commercial purposes.