



Department of

Health, Social Services and Public Safety

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

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Nurse and Pharmacist Independent Prescribers in
General Practice)**

RQIA

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**Head of Professional Services, Pharmaceutical Society
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**Professor Sean Gorman, Head of School of Pharmacy,
QUB**

**Professor Paul McCarron, Head of School of Pharmacy,
University of Ulster**

Dear Colleagues,

Non-Medical Prescribing: Changes in legislation regarding mixing of medicines and prescribing unlicensed medicines

Following an MHRA public consultation earlier in the year (Proposal for amendments to medicines legislation to allow mixing of medicines in palliative care) changes to legislation have come into force which allow:

- Nurse and pharmacist independent prescribers, and supplementary prescribers when working within the terms of a clinical management plan, to mix medicines for administration and provide written directions for others to do so
- Nurse and pharmacist independent prescribers to prescribe unlicensed medicines

The Medicines (Exemptions and Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2009 and the Medicines for Human Use (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No.2) Regulations 2009 were laid before Parliament on November 25th 2009 and came into force on 21st December 2009.

The above amendments do not extend to controlled drugs although MHRA is working with the Home Office to ensure that this is incorporated.

In the meantime existing good practice should continue in relation to mixing of controlled drugs based on MHRA's existing statement, of which the Home Office is aware and with which the Department would concur. The MHRA statement which is included within 'The Public consultation (MLX 356): Proposal for amendments to medicines legislation to allow mixing of medicines in palliative care', may be accessed at:

<http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Publications/Consultations/Medicinesconsultations/MLXs/CON033523>

A number of other useful websites which further detail the changes and which you should find useful include the following:-

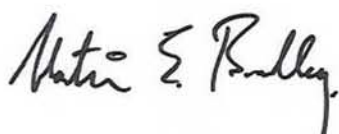
Law and Ethics Bulletins from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPSGB):

- Mixing of medicines- <http://www.rpsgb.org/pdfs/LEBmixmedicines.pdf>
- Prescribing of unlicensed medicines by Pharmacist and Nurse Independent Prescribers <http://www.rpsgb.org/pdfs/LEBunlicensedmed.pdf>

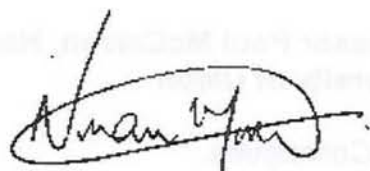
Note that the NPC non-medical prescribing FAQs: <http://www.npc.co.uk/prescribers/faq.htm> will be amended in due course to reflect these changes in legislation.

I would be grateful if you would bring this to the attention of all nurse and pharmacist Independent Prescribers, supplementary prescribers and relevant areas of practice.

Yours sincerely



MARTIN BRADLEY
Chief Nursing Officer



Norman Morrow
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer