Dear Colleague,

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF NON MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS INTENDING TO PRESCRIBE ON A PRIVATE BASIS

There has been an increase in the number of queries to DHSSPS from non medical practitioners who are considering undertaking private work which involves prescribing. Within Northern Ireland, non medical practitioners who are entitled to prescribe, and are appropriately trained and registered with their professional bodies, may do so on a private basis.

However, it is important to note that individuals who are considering prescribing privately must be aware of their personal responsibilities, only work within their competence and have adequate professional indemnity. Furthermore, before they start to practice they should seek appropriate advice to ensure that they are working in accordance with all relevant legislation\(^1\) and within the ethical standards and requirements of their professional and regulatory bodies to safeguard patients in their care.

\(^1\) The relevant legislation will be determined by the type of role that the non medical practitioner is planning to provide on a private basis and may involve legislation relating to medicines; child protection, health protection and health and safety.
In addition to the above, practitioners involved in the supply and administration of injectable medicines used outside their licensed medicinal uses, such as in cosmetic procedures, should be aware of the information on this subject provided by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) available at:

Yours sincerely

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