



Director of Nursing, Public Health Agency  
Nursing Directors, HSC Trusts (for onward distribution to all  
prescribing Nurses and Midwives)  
Chief Executive, NIPEC  
Head of School of Nursing, QUB  
Head of School of Nursing, University of Ulster  
Senior Lecturer, Open University  
Director, NEDC  
Director, Beeches  
Director of Operations, Regulation and Quality Improvement  
Authority (for onward distribution to all Nursing Homes)  
Assistant Director Pharmacy and Medicines Management, HSC  
Board  
Senior AHP Lead Group  
All Pharmacists  
Family Practitioner Units (for onward distribution to practice  
staff including all General Practitioners, GP Locums and  
Practice nurses)  
Director, Royal College of Nursing  
Board Secretary, Royal College of Midwives  
Registrar, Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland  
Professional Officer, CPHVA  
LSAMO, PHA  
Chief Executive, NI Hospice  
Sue Curry, Marie Curie

Our ref. DH1/11/96040

Date: 16 June 2011

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<sup>1</sup> and within the ethical standards and requirements of their professional and regulatory bodies to safeguard patients in their care.

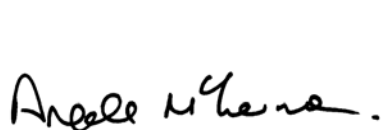
<sup>1</sup> The relevant legislation will be determined by the type of role that the non medical practitioner is planning to provide on a private basis and may involve legislation relating to medicines; child protection, health protection and health and safety.



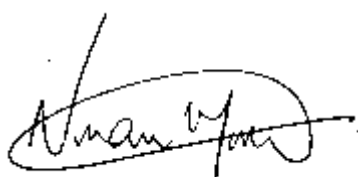
In addition to the above, practitioners involved in the supply and administration of injectable medicines used outside their licensed medicinal uses, such as in cosmetic procedures, should be aware of the information on this subject provided by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) available at:

<http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Howweregulate/Medicines/Availabilityprescribingandsellingandsupplyingofmedicines/Frequentlyraisedissues/BotoxVistabelDysportandotherinjectablemedicinesincosmeticprocedures/index.htm>. To assure patient safety, prescribers working in this area should also consider registering with the Independent Healthcare Advisory Service, Register of Injectable Cosmetic Providers <http://www.independenthealthcare.org.uk/index.php?/library/cosmetic-treatments.html>.

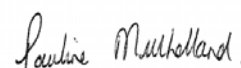
Yours sincerely



**ANGELA McLERNON**  
Acting Chief Nursing Officer



**DR NORMAN MORROW**  
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer



**PAULINE MULHOLLAND**  
Lead, Allied Health Professions

cc: C Harrison  
D Boulter  
O Brown  
R McHugh  
M McCourt