

**From the Chief Medical Officer  
Professor Sir Michael McBride**



Department of  
**Health**

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

[www.health-ni.gov.uk](http://www.health-ni.gov.uk)

**HSS(MD) 06/2024**

**FOR ACTION**

Chief Executives, Public Health Agency/HSC Trusts/NIAS

Deputy Secretary SPPG

GP Medical Advisers, SPPG

All General Practitioners and GP Locums (for onward  
distribution to practice staff)

OOHs Medical Managers (for onward distribution to staff)

**PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FULL CIRCULATION LIST**

Castle Buildings

Stormont Estate

BELFAST

BT4 3SQ

Tel: 028 9052 0563

Email: [Michael.McBride@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.McBride@health-ni.gov.uk)

Our Ref: HSS(MD) 06/2024

Date: 21 February 2024

Dear Colleague

**VALPROATE: IMPORTANT NEW REGULATORY MEASURE FOR OVERSIGHT  
OF PRESCRIBING TO NEW PATIENTS AND EXISTING FEMALE PATIENTS**

Please see attached letter which has been issued today.

I would be grateful if you would bring this to the attention of all medical staff.

Yours sincerely

**PROFESSOR SIR MICHAEL McBRIDE**  
Chief Medical Officer

## **Circulation List**

Director of Public Health/Medical Director, Public Health Agency *(for onward distribution to all relevant health protection staff)*

Assistant Director Public Health (Health Protection), Public Health Agency

Director of Nursing, Public Health Agency

Assistant Director of Pharmacy and Medicines Management, SPPG *(for onward distribution to Community Pharmacies)*

Directors of Pharmacy HSC Trusts

Director of Social Care and Children, SPPG

Family Practitioner Service Leads, SPPG *(for cascade to GP Out of Hours services)*

Medical Directors, HSC Trusts *(for onward distribution to all Consultants, Occupational Health Physicians and School Medical Leads)*

Nursing Directors, HSC Trusts *(for onward distribution to all Community Nurses, and Midwives)*

Directors of Children's Services, HSC Trusts

RQIA *(for onward transmission to all independent providers including independent hospitals)*

Joe Brogan, Assistant Director, Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management, Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG) *(for onward distribution to SPPG Pharmacy and Medicines Management Team and community pharmacists)*

Regional Medicines Information Service, Belfast HSC Trust

Regional Pharmaceutical Procurement Service, Northern HSC Trust

Professor Donna Fitzsimons, Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery QUB

Professor Neal Cook, Head of School of Nursing, University of Ulster

Heather Finlay, CEC

Donna Gallagher, Open University

Professor Paul McCarron, Head of School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, UU

Professor Colin McCoy, Head of School, School of Pharmacy, QUB

Postgraduate Pharmacy Dean, NI Centre for Pharmacy

Learning and Development, QUB

Michael Donaldson, Head of Dental Services, SPPG *(for distribution to all General Dental Practitioners)*

Raymond Curran, Head of Ophthalmic Services, SPPG *(for distribution to Community Optometrists)*

Trade Union Side

Clinical Advisory Team

Louise McMahon, Director of Integrated Care, SPPG

••••• This letter is available on the Department of Health website at  
• [https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/professional-medical-and-environmental-health-](https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/professional-medical-and-environmental-health-advice/hssmd-letters-and-urgent-communications)  
• [advice/hssmd-letters-and-urgent-communications](https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/professional-medical-and-environmental-health-advice/hssmd-letters-and-urgent-communications)  
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