

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



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

www.health-ni.gov.uk

HSS(MD) 08/2023

BY EMAIL

Chief Executives, Public Health Agency/SPPG/HSC Trusts/
NIAS
GP Medical Advisers, All General Practitioners and GP Locums
*(for onward distribution to practice staff) and Community
Pharmacies*
OOHs Medical Managers *(for onward distribution to staff)*
RQIA (for onward circulation to independent sector
health and social care providers)

Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST
BT4 3SQ

Tel: 028 9052 0563

Email: Michael.McBride@health-ni.gov.uk

Our Ref: HSS(MD) 08/2024
Date: 23 February 2024

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FULL CIRCULATION LIST

Dear Colleague

**MHRA DRUG SAFETY UPDATE – PSEUDOEPHEDRINE: VERY RARE RISK OF
POSTERIOR REVERSIBLE ENCEPHALOPATHY SYNDROME (PRES) AND
REVERSIBLE CEREBRAL VASOCONSTRICTION SYNDROME (RCVS)**

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) have issued the below Drug Safety Update.

Healthcare Professionals are asked to note and action the advice for healthcare professionals, advice for healthcare professionals to provide to patients, and recommendations contained within the Drug Safety Update.

Please find link to the complete **MHRA Drug Safety Update** included below:

- [**Pseudoephedrine: very rare risk of posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome \(PRES\) and reversible cerebral vasoconstriction syndrome \(RCVS\)**](#)

There have been very rare reports of posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome (PRES) and reversible cerebral vasoconstriction syndrome (RCVS) with pseudoephedrine. Patients and caregivers should be advised to be alert to the symptoms for PRES and RCVS, to stop the medication immediately and to seek urgent medical attention if these occur. If someone presents with symptoms of PRES or RCVS, ask about their medication history.

Report suspected reactions on a Yellow Card

Please continue to report suspected adverse drug reactions to the [Yellow Card scheme](#). Healthcare professionals, patients, and caregivers are asked to submit reports using the Yellow Card scheme electronically using:

- the [Yellow Card website](#)
- the Yellow Card app; download from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#)
- some clinical IT systems for healthcare professionals

When reporting please provide as much information as possible, including information about batch numbers, medical history, any concomitant medication, onset timing, treatment dates, and product brand name.

Yours sincerely



Prof Sir Michael McBride
Chief Medical Officer



Professor Cathy Harrison
Chief Pharmaceutical 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

