

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



HSS(MD) 19/2024

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) and Community
Pharmacies
OOHs Medical Managers (for onward distribution to staff)

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Our Ref: HSS(MD) 19/2024

Date: 31 May 2024

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FULL CIRCULATION LIST

Dear Colleague

MHRA Drug Safety Update –

Topical steroids: introduction of new labelling and a reminder of the possibility of severe side effects, including Topical Steroid Withdrawal Reactions

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 carers, and recommendations contained within the Drug Safety Update.

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

[Topical steroids: introduction of new labelling and a reminder of the possibility of severe side effects, including Topical Steroid Withdrawal Reactions](#)

Topical steroid products are safe and highly effective treatments for the management of a wide range of inflammatory skin diseases but have important risks, especially with prolonged use at high potency. In the coming months, as a result of regulatory action, topical steroid products will be labelled with information on their potency to simplify advice for patients.

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:

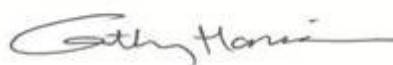
- the [Yellow Card website](#)
- the Yellow Card app; download from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#)
- some clinical IT systems for healthcare professionals

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



Professor Sir Michael McBride
Chief Medical Officer



Professor Cathy Harrison
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

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