

From the Chief Medical Officer
Professor Sir Michael McBride



HSS(MD)28/2026

FOR ACTION

Chief Executives, Public Health Agency/HSC
Trusts/NIAS
Chief Operating Officer, SPPG
GP Medical Advisers, SPPG
All General Practitioners and GP Locums (*for
onward distribution to practice staff*)
OOH Medical Managers (*for onward distribution to
staff*)

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Your Ref:
Our Ref: HSS(MD)28/2026
Date: 16 July 2026

Dear Colleague

MHRA DRUG SAFETY UPDATE: Botulinum toxin type A products: updated warnings regarding risk of iatrogenic botulism

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has 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 the link to the complete **MHRA Drug Safety Update** included below:

[Botulinum toxin type A products: updated warnings regarding risk of iatrogenic botulism](#)

Cases of iatrogenic botulism have been reported following the therapeutic or cosmetic use of botulinum toxin containing products where the toxin's effect extends beyond the area of treatment. Patients should seek immediate medical advice if they experience signs and symptoms.

Reporting advice

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 suspected adverse drug reactions, please provide as much information as possible, including information about medical history, any concomitant medication, onset timing, and treatment dates.

For queries or more information, please contact info@mhra.gov.uk.

You can subscribe to the MHRA new Safety Roundup bulletin [here](#). The latest MHRA Safety Roundup is available at the following link: [MHRA Safety Roundup](#).

Yours sincerely



Prof Sir Michael McBride
Chief Medical Officer



Prof Cathy Harrison
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

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 SPPG Pharmacy and Medicines Management Team and community pharmacists*)

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*)

Regional Medicines Information Service, Belfast HSC Trust

Regional Pharmaceutical Procurement Service, Northern HSC Trust

Professor Kenda Crozier, Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery QUB

Andrea Shepherd, Head of School of Nursing, Ulster University

Ann Kerrin, Head of HSC Clinical Education Centre

Stephanie Foster, Open University

Professor Paul McCarron, Head of School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Ulster University

Professor Gavin Andrews, 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

Dr Camille Harron, NIMDTA

Prof Pascal McKeown, QUB

Prof Alan Smyth, QUB

Prof Peter Bazira, Head of Medical School, UU

Dr Kathy Cullen, Director of the Centre for Medical Education at QUB

Michelle Tennyson, Allied Health Professional, DoH

Lead Allied Health Professional HSC Trusts

Head of School, UU

Glynis McMurtry - Professional Head of Pharmacy GP Federations (*for onward distribution to GP Pharmacists*)

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/professional-medical-and-environmental-health-advice/hssmd-letters-and-urgent-communications>

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