From the Chief Medical Officer
Professor Sir Michael McBride

Department of Health
An Roinn Sláinte
Männystrie O Poustie
www.health-ni.gov.uk

HSS(MD) 41/2026

FOR ACTION

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Your Ref:
Our Ref: HSS(MD) 41/2026
Date: 27 October 2026

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

Dear Colleague

MHRA DRUG SAFETY UPDATE: #MedSafetyWeek (2 to 8 November 2026): Don't ignore suspected side effects, report them! Updates to the Yellow Card website and app

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, contained within the Drug Safety Update.

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

#MedSafetyWeek (2 to 8 November 2026): Don't ignore suspected side effects, report them! Updates to the Yellow Card website and app

The annual #MedSafetyWeek campaign is taking place from **2 to 8 November 2026** to promote the importance of reporting side effects from medicines and medical device incidents. This year's theme is 'Side effects: don't ignore them, report them!'

The Yellow Card scheme relies on both healthcare professionals and patients reporting any suspected side effects and adverse incidents, allowing the MHRA to identify and monitor potential safety concerns related to medicines, devices, vaccines, blood products and e-cigarettes.

#MedSafetyWeek raises awareness of the Yellow Card scheme and this year's theme encourages the reporting of side effects and adverse incidents. Yellow Card

reporting plays a key role in keeping patients safe and ensures that healthcare products remain effective and safe by helping the MHRA identify new safety issues as early as possible.

Reporting advice

Reporting for medicines

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

Submitting a Yellow Card online only takes a few minutes, and only a suspicion is needed. Please provide as much relevant information as possible, including medical history, concomitant medication, onset timing and treatment dates, as this helps the MHRA assess the report.

Reporting for medical devices

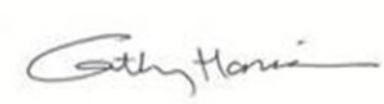
Healthcare professionals should report incidents in Northern Ireland to the Yellow Card website in accordance with your organisations medical device policies and procedures.

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

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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