

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride



Department of

**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

HSS(MD)11/2012

Action:

All General Practitioners
GP Locums
Family Practitioner Service Leads, HSC Board
(for cascade to GP Out of Hours services)
Medical Directors of HSC Trusts
(for onward distribution to:
Consultant cancer and plastic surgeons
Accident and Emergency doctors)
All Community Pharmacists

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Your Ref:

Our Ref: HSS(MD)11/2012

Date: 15 March 2012

Information:

Chief Executive, Health and Social Care Board
Chief Executives of HSC Trusts
Director of Integrated Care, Health and Social Care Board
Chief Executive, Public Health Agency
Executive Medical Director/Director Public Health,
Public Health Agency
Director of Nursing, Public Health Agency
Directors of Nursing of HSC Trusts
Professor Patrick Johnston, Dean, School of
Medicine, Dentistry & Bio-medical Sciences QUB
Dr Clare Loughrey, NIMDTA
Professor Linda Johnston, Head of School of
Nursing and Midwifery, QUB
Dr Owen Barr, Head of School of Nursing,
University of Ulster
Mr Joe Brogan, Asst Dir of commissioning,
Pharmacy and Medicines Management HSCB
Professor Scott Brown, RCGPNI

Dear Colleague

PIP SILICONE GEL BREAST IMPLANTS SUPPLIED BEFORE 2001 – UPDATED GUIDANCE

Further to my letter of 24 February 2012 **HSS(MD)8/2012**

<http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/hss-md-8-2012.pdf> I am writing to provide further direction for General Practitioners and hospital doctors dealing with patients with breast implants seeking advice, particularly those who have received PIP implants.

There is no guarantee that the silicone gel filler used in the manufacture of PIP breast implants prior to 2001 was the approved filler. The guidance in **HSS(MD)8/2012** applies to all patients with breast implants irrespective of the date of implantation.

It is important to note, in line with previous communications, that the removal of PIP silicone gel implants is a precautionary step and is non-urgent. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has no evidence of any disproportionate rate of implant rupture and there is no evidence of any increase in incidence of cancer associated with these implants. If a patient is offered HSC surgery on a routine elective basis, it should be consistent with existing HSC guidelines on plastic surgery.

Yours sincerely



DR MICHAEL McBRIDE
Chief Medical Officer

This letter is available on the DHSSPS website at
www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/phealth/professional/cmo_communications.htm