

Canice Ward
Medicines Regulatory Group

BY EMAIL

Trust Heads of Pharmacy & Medicines Management
HSCB – Asst Director, Head of Pharmacy & Medicines Mgt
(for onward distribution to LIN members)
Registrar Pharmaceutical Society NI
(for onward distribution to Pharmacists and Pre-registration
Pharmacists)
Chief Executive CPNI
President UCA
Lead Pharmacist RQIA



Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast
BT4 3SQ
Tel: 02890 523703
Email: canice.ward@health-ni.gov.uk

Date: 25 February 2019

Dear Colleague,

The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Amendment) Order 2018
The Misuse of Drugs and Misuse of Drugs (Safe Custody) (Amendment)
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019

I am writing to advise of forthcoming amendments to Misuse of Drugs legislation. These changes mirror amendments being made in GB and are available at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2018/1356/contents/made> and <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2019/21/contents/made> respectively.

The above Order, coming into force on 1st April 2019, will bring a number of substances under the control of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 namely Pregabalin and Gabapentin which will become Class C drugs.

The above Regulations, also coming into operation on 1st April 2019, will add Pregabalin and Gabapentin to Schedule 3 to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002. Pregabalin and Gabapentin will also be added to Schedule 1 to the Misuse of Drugs (Safe Custody) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 1973, that is, those drugs which are exempted from the statutory secure storage requirements.

On the date that the Regulations come into operation, Pregabalin and Gabapentin will be subject to the usual controls applied to Schedule 3 drugs by the Misuse of Drugs Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Canice Ward'.

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