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Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

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AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

HSS (MD) 48/2009

Chief Executives, Health & Social Care Board/ HSCTrusts

Family Practitioner Service Leads, Health & Social Care
Board

GP Medical Advisers, Health & Social Care Board

All General Practitioners and GP Locums

Medical and Nursing Directors, HSC Trusts (*for onward
distribution to all independent prescribers*)

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Dear Colleague

MAINTAINING THE SUPPLY OF MEDICINES TO PATIENTS DURING A PANDEMIC SURGE

This letter is to provide guidance on how the supplies of medicines can be managed equitably during an escalation of the influenza pandemic.

During a pandemic there is the possibility that the normal supplies of medication could become disrupted, with the result that a number of medicines may be in short supply (you may be aware that some stocks are already low). If the normal arrangements for repeat prescribing were to continue during a pandemic, or if the quantities per prescription were to increase, there is a risk that some patients could have a stockpile of medicines sufficient for several months whilst others have none, with the concomitant adverse effects on health.

The UK Government has been working with both manufacturers and wholesalers to seek to ensure the continuity of the medicine supply chain. However, and in order to support the effective management of medicine supply, prescribers are asked:

