

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride



Department of

**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

HSS(MD)55/2009

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÄNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

Medical Director, NIAS
(for cascade to ambulance crews)
Medical Directors, HSC Trusts
(for cascade to Clinical Directors A&E units)
All General Practitioners
(for cascade to practice staff)
Family Practitioner Service Leads, HSC Board
(for cascade to Out-of-Hours services)
Chief Executive, HSC Board
Chief Executives, HSC Trusts
Chief Executive, Public Health Agency
Director of Public Health, Public Health Agency
Medical Director, RQIA

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Your Ref:

Our Ref: HSS(MD)55/2009

Date: 20 November 2009

Dear Colleague

Use of Taser Technology by PSNI

In February 2008 I issued HSS(MD)2/2008 (*please see link below*) following the introduction of the use of Taser technology by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI).

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/phealth-urgentcomms-2008.htm

Taser technology is a less lethal option for use by specialist firearms officers. Taser is a conductive energy device which is used to temporarily incapacitate a subject through the application of an electrical current.

It is possible that healthcare professionals will be requested to remove Taser darts which are barbed and may imbed in the skin, or treat injuries caused as a result of fall or collapse due to the Taser use.

Please see the link below for the current wall chart version of the Guidance that has been produced by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and by the Joint Royal Colleges Ambulance Liaison Committee for your information.

http://asa.uk.net/content_files/files/TASERposter.pdf

The wall chart is not downloadable but may be purchased from the Ambulance Service Association

http://asa.uk.net/editorial.asp?page_id=212&keywords=TaserIIIGuidance

Yours sincerely

**Dr M McBride
Chief Medical Officer**