From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride

Department of
Health, Social Services and Public Safety
An Roinn
Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí
www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

URGENT COMMUNICATION

HSS(MD) 18/2007

To: Chief Executives HSC Trusts *(for onward distribution to Medical Directors, Directors of Nursing, Directors of Pharmacy and A&E Staff)*
Medical Directors, HSC Trusts
Directors of Public Health HSS Boards
Directors of Nursing HSS Boards
Directors of Pharmacy HSS Boards

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Your Ref:
Our Ref: HSS(MD) 18/2007
Date: 11 July 2007

Dear Colleague

CYANIDE POISONING

Further to media reports of an episode of suspected cyanide poisoning I felt it prudent as a precautionary measure to draw to your attention information on cyanide poisoning full details of which are available from Toxbase, the National Poisons Information Service, Edinburgh www.spib.axl.co.uk and the Health Protection Agency www.hpa.org.uk (copy of guidelines attached). In particular I would draw your attention to the signs and symptoms of cyanide poisoning and advice on decontamination and treatment.

Yours sincerely

DR MICHAEL McBRIDE
Chief Medical Officer

cc Dr Norman Morrow
Mr Martin Bradley

This letter is available at www.dhsspsni.gov.uk and also on the DHSSPS Extranet which can be accessed directly at http://extranet.dhsspsni.gov.uk or by going through the HPSS Web at http://www.n-i.nhs.uk and clicking on DHSSPS.