

*From the Chief Medical Officer*  
Dr Henrietta Campbell CB

## HSS(MD)3/2005

To:  
All General Practitioners  
All Community Pharmacists  
Medical Directors, HSS Trusts (for onward dissemination as appropriate)  
Directors of Pharmacy, HSS Boards and HSS Trusts  
Consultant Microbiologists, HSS Trusts  
Occupational Health Physicians, HSS Trusts  
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Your Ref:  
Our Ref: HSS(MD)3/2005  
Date: 6<sup>th</sup> January 2005

Dear Colleague

### **PATHWAY OF CARE FOR PATIENTS WITH BRUCELLOSIS**

Northern Ireland has recently experienced an outbreak of brucellosis in the cattle herd. As a direct consequence the incidence of human disease has risen with 89 cases reported during the period 1998-2003.

Brucellosis is now a rare zoonosis and few doctors have experience of managing the disease. It was against this background that a multidisciplinary working group developed the Pathway of Care. This aims to describe evidence-based practice and combines information on the epidemiology of the infection with advice on therapy, referral and follow-up.

The Pathway targets primarily general practitioners involved in managing an individual who suffers from brucellosis. As it may also be relevant to consultant physicians, and other health care professionals. I would ask Medical Directors to bring it to their attention.

The Pathway has now been published on the Department's website [www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/phealth/index.asp](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/phealth/index.asp). You should note that hard copies have been made available to Directors of Public Health in areas where the risks are highest. Should you wish to receive a hard copy you should contact the Employment Medical Advisory Service, HSENI, 83 Ladas Drive, Belfast BT6 9FR, tel 028 90 542122.

Yours sincerely

**Dr Henrietta Campbell**  
**Chief Medical Officer**

This letter is available at [www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://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.