

**FROM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF
ESTATE POLICY
HEALTH ESTATES
Mr Brian Godfrey**



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

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

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Health and Social Services Boards
Chief Executive
Health and Social Services Trusts
General Manager
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Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service
General Medical Practitioners
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Community Pharmacists
Optometrists
Hospices

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Our Ref: PEL(04)22 Supplement 1

Date: 7 March 2006

Dear Sir/Madam

UPDATE – AVAILABILITY OF MHRA DEVICE BULLETINS AND OTHER GUIDANCE PUBLICATIONS

Summary

PEL(04)22 dated 8th November 2004 alerted HPSS organisations and other providers of health and social care of the decision to cease publishing Northern Ireland equivalents of Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) Device Bulletins and other general guidance publications. The PEL also outlined that this position would be kept under review depending on the subject of the Device Bulletin or guidance publication.

HPSS organisations and other providers of health and social care are reminded that previously published NIAIC and MHRA Device Bulletins and other general guidance is available on the NIAIC website at www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/niaic. Current MHRA Device Bulletins and guidance publications can be obtained in pdf format by following the link provided on the NIAIC website.

The NIAIC website also contains regularly updated Medical Device/Equipment Alerts and other supporting information that is applicable to the HPSS and wider health and social care community in Northern Ireland. **It is recommended that Health, Social Care and Estates professionals regularly check the NIAIC website for current information or guidance concerning medical device or equipment safety.**

New MHRA Device Bulletins & Guidance Documents

When a new MHRA Device Bulletin or other guidance document is published, NIAIC will now alert HPSS organisations to the availability of the document through an email to all NIAIC liaison officers in HPSS organisations. The email will give an outline of the content of the guidance and provide a web link to the appropriate document.

NIAIC will continue to publish and distribute as appropriate medical device and estates equipment specific safety information in the form of Medical Device/Equipment Alerts (MDEA's) and continue to assess and investigate, as appropriate, all reports of adverse incidents involved with medical devices or estates equipment as outlined in MDEA(NI)2006/01. To encourage the reporting of adverse incidents associated with medical devices, we have produced the attached poster on "Reporting Adverse Incidents". Further copies of the poster can be obtained by printing the following document from the NIAIC website – www.dhsspsni.gov/niaic_reporting_AIs.

For Onward Distribution:

To ensure that all staff are aware of the availability of MHRA Device Bulletins and other guidance documents, the contents of this letter should be brought to the attention of all who need to know or be aware of it, including those listed below, in accordance with local procedures. This will include:

- Risk Managers
- Health & Safety Officers/Advisors
- Medical Directors
- Clinical Directors
- Executive Social Work Directors
- HSS Trust Pharmacy Managers
- Nursing Directors
- All Medical, Nursing and Care Staff
- Ambulance Staff and Paramedics
- Allied Health Professionals
- Social Care Staff
- Estates Managers
- Trust Service Commissioning Managers
- Independent Health and Social Care Providers – Private Clinics, Residential and Nursing Homes through RQIA
- Children's Homes
- Day Care Centres
- Practice Nurses
- Community Nurses
- Practice Managers
- GP Registrars
- Directors of Public Health
- Clinical and Social Care Governance Leads
- Chairs of Local Health and Social Care Groups (LHSCGs).
- Community Care Staff

Should you require any further information concerning this letter, please contact; -

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Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Godfrey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brian Godfrey
Assistant Director