

**FROM THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER
Dr Michael McBride**



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

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

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Dear Colleague

HEPATITIS C – INFORMATION PACK FOR PROFESSIONALS, PATIENTS & THE PUBLIC

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) has just issued its *Action Plan for the Prevention, Management and Control of Hepatitis C in Northern Ireland*. The plan has fourteen recommended actions including several on public and professional education and awareness. It is available at www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/hepatitisc-actionplan-2007.pdf

The following educational materials related to the action plan are in this pack:

- A briefing booklet for those working in the field entitled *Hepatitis C – essential information for health professionals*.
- An easy-to-read leaflet for the public entitled *Hepatitis C – could I be at risk?* for particular distribution to those who most likely to need such information. It explains symptoms, transmission routes, available treatment and opportunities for being tested etc. It is also available in Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Irish, Lithuanian and Portuguese from the DHSSPS website.
- An example of the letter sent to clinicians by the Regional Virus Laboratory at the RVH on confirmation of antibody positive hepatitis C.

The professionals' booklet, the public leaflet (including the six translations) and other items can be accessed from the Departmental website at www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/hepatitisc.htm.

Others recommendations in the action plan, many of them already in train, involve efforts to reduce transmission by injecting drug users, prevention of transmission in health care settings, and the establishment of regional arrangements for the future management of hepatitis C in Northern Ireland.



