

**From the Chief Medical Officer
Professor Sir Michael McBride**



HSS(MD) 37/2022

FOR ACTION

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Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST
BT4 3SQ

Tel: 028 9052 0563

Email: Michael.McBride@health-ni.gov.uk

Our Ref: HSS(MD) 37/2022

Date: 16 August 2022

Dear Colleague

WORLD PATIENT SAFETY DAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2022

This year's World Health Organization (WHO) World Patient Safety Day (WPSD) is taking place on 17 September 2022. World Patient Safety Day is one of WHO's global public health days and is firmly grounded in the principle of medicine – first do no harm.

The WHO has selected 'Medication Safety' as the theme for this year's World Patient Safety Day. Unsafe medication practices and medication errors are a leading cause of avoidable harm in health care across the world, as recognised by the WHO selecting '[Medication Without Harm](#)' as their third Global Patient Safety Challenge. We are writing to advise that this year's World Patient Safety Day events in Northern Ireland will have a particular focus on the WHO '[Know, Check, Ask](#)' medication safety campaign.

'Know, Check, Ask' aims to empower patients and their carers to become more involved in decisions about their medication and also aims to encourage health and social care staff to recognise their roles and responsibilities in ensuring that medicines are used safely. The campaign forms an integral part of the Department of Health's '[Transforming Medication Safety in Northern Ireland \(NI\)](#)' strategy to meet the WHO 'Medication Without Harm' challenge.

The roll out of the NI 'Know, Check, Ask' campaign across HSC is planned for Monday 12 September 2022, with various events taking place throughout the week and leading up to World Patient Safety Day on 17 September 2022. We would ask that you work with, and encourage, staff and colleagues within your organisation to promote and support this very important campaign.

A range of 'Know, Check Ask' resources will be available to help your teams celebrate the day and promote medication safety to both staff and patients. Resources including campaign HSC staff briefing document, posters, My Medicines List and animations will be available at [https://online.hscni.net/know-check-ask-by-19 August 2022](https://online.hscni.net/know-check-ask-by-19-August-2022). In addition, printed resources will be distributed to organisations by 29 August 2022.

Further information on World Patient Safety Day is available at [World Health Organisation website](#). For any queries in relation to World Patient Safety Day please contact Jane Keenan, Project Manager Regional Safer Medicines, Strategic Planning and Performance Group, email jane.keenan@hscni.net

We hope you enjoy the opportunity to celebrate World Patient Safety Day and would like to thank you for your support to improve safe practices with medicines and embed a medication safety culture within our population.

Yours sincerely



PROF SIR MICHAEL McBRIDE
Chief Medical Officer



CATHY HARRISON
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer



MARIA McILGORM
Chief Nursing Officer

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This letter is available on the Department of Health website at
<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/professional-medical-and-environmental-health-advice/hssmd-letters-and-urgent-communications>