

**From the Chief Medical Officer**  
Dr Michael McBride

**HSS(MD) 16/2014**



Executive Medical Director/Director Public Health,  
Public Health Agency  
Director of Nursing, Public Health Agency  
Medical Directors, HSC Trusts  
*(for cascade to medical staff)*  
Directors of Nursing, HSC Trusts  
*(for cascade to all nursing staff)*  
Director of Integrated Care, HSC Board  
All General Practitioners  
GP Locums  
Family Practitioner Service Leads, HSC Board  
*(for cascade to: GP Out of Hours services)*  
Heads of Pharmacy and Medicines Management,  
HSC Board & HSC Trusts  
All Community Pharmacists  
All Dentists

(list continued at end of letter)

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Your Ref:  
Our Ref: HSS(MD) 16/2014

16 June 2014

Dear Colleagues

**The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Ketamine etc) (Amendment) Order 2014**

**The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment No. 2) and Misuse of Drugs (Safe Custody) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014**

1. Amendments to Misuse of Drugs legislation will come into operation during June 2014.
2. The above Order, became law on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014 and, will bring a number of substances under the control of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. With respect to the substances used in medicine, lisdexamphetamine will become a Class B drug; ketamine will move to Class B (from Class C); tramadol, zopiclone and zaleplon will become Class C drugs.
3. In NI the above Regulations, due to come into force on 26<sup>th</sup> June, will add the substances mentioned in the Order to appropriate schedules in the Misuse of Drugs Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002 ('the 2002 Regulations'). Lisdexamphetamine will be added to schedule 2. Tramadol will be added to schedule 3 while zopiclone and zaleplon will be added to schedule 4 Part 1. Ketamine is not being rescheduled at this point and will remain in schedule 4 Part 1.

4. Tramadol will be added to schedule 1 to the Misuse of Drugs (Safe Custody) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 1973, that is, those drugs which are exempted from the statutory secure storage requirements.
5. Lisdexamphetamine will be legally subject to the usual controls applied to schedule 2 drugs by the 2002 Regulations.
6. On the date that the Regulations come into operation, tramadol will be subject to the usual controls applied to schedule 3 drugs by the 2002 Regulations.

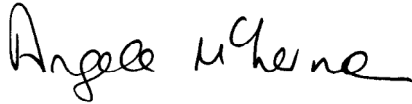
Yours sincerely



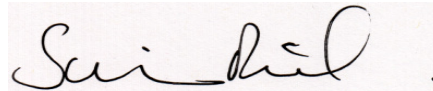
**Dr Michael McBride**  
**Chief Medical Officer**



**Dr Mark Timoney**  
**Chief Pharmaceutical Officer**



**OBO**  
**Charlotte McArdle**  
**Chief Nursing Officer**



**Simon Reid**  
**Acting Chief Dental Officer**

**Circulation continued:**

Chief Executive, HSC Board

Chief Executives, HSC Trusts

Chief Executive, Public Health Agency

Professor Patrick Johnston, Dean, School of Medicine, Dentistry & Bio-medical Sciences, QUB

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Professor Linda Johnston, Dean, School of Nursing & Midwifery, QUB

Professor Donald Burden, Director of the Centre for Dental Education at QUB

Professor Owen Barr, Head of School of Nursing, University of Ulster

Mrs Glynis Henry, Chief Executive, NIPEC

Mrs Donna Gallagher, Open University

Mr Keith Gardiner, Postgraduate Dean, NIMDTA

Dr Gavin Lavery, Director, Safety Forum

Mr John Leckey, Coroners Service NI

The Regional Medicines and Poisons Information Service, Belfast HSC Trust

Chief Executive, RQIA

Professor *David Woolfson*, *School of Pharmacy QUB*

Professor *Paul McCarron*, *School of Pharmacy UU*

Professor Colin Adair, Director NICPLD, Riddel Hall, QUB

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[www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/phealth/professional/cmo\\_communications.htm](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/phealth/professional/cmo_communications.htm)