

Medicines Regulatory Group

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Directorate of Integrated Care

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4th August 2017

To: Community Pharmacy Contractors

Dear Colleague

ALLEGED CONTROLLED DRUG DIVERSION FROM SUPPLY CHAIN

It has been alleged that there have been unlawful attempts made to access controlled drugs via wholesalers in other parts of the UK. The parties responsible appear to be claiming to be legitimate registered pharmacies. The matter came to light when excess controlled drugs were supplied to registered pharmacies and it emerged that bogus orders had been made to wholesalers.

At this point, we are unaware of similar situations occurring in Northern Ireland. All local wholesalers have been contacted and have been apprised of this issue.

The purpose of this letter is to highlight this risk, to raise awareness and request that community pharmacy staff report any unusual excess supply from wholesalers.

Should you identify an order which raises concerns, please advise your wholesaler and contact the Medicines Regulatory Group or your local HSCB pharmacy adviser.

Yours sincerely



Mike Mawhinney
Head of Medicines Regulatory Group



Joe Brogan
CD Accountable Officer, HSCB