

To: All Nursing Homes
All GP Practices

**Directorate of Integrated Care
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Dear Colleague,

Supply route for Insulin Safety Needles

Insulin safety needles may be used when healthcare workers are administering insulin to patients who are unable to self-administer. They are generally used to prevent needle stick injuries and to ensure the protection of healthcare workers.

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that nursing home staff are aware of the correct mechanism for ordering supplies of these needles.

Safety needles **should NOT be prescribed on patient's own prescription** for use by healthcare professionals and employees; **it is the employer's responsibility to provide them.**

Trusts have previously been advised that safety needles being used by Trust staff should be ordered via Trust stock and not ordered via patient prescription.¹

Action for nursing homes

- Nursing homes should purchase and stock a supply of suitable insulin safety needles for use by their staff for administration of insulin to patients.

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- Nursing homes should **not** request prescriptions for safety needles on a named patient basis from the GP practice.

Action for GP Practices:

GP Practices should identify patients who are currently being prescribed safety needles .If the patient resides in a nursing home, they should contact the relevant nursing home and advise of the correct arrangements for ordering safety needles.

When the new supply arrangement is in place, the GP practice should stop issuing further prescriptions for safety needles.

If you have any queries on this letter, please contact HSCB Pharmacy Adviser, Breege Brogan breege.brogan@hscni.net.

Yours sincerely,



Joe Brogan
Assistant Director of Integrated Care
Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management

Cc: All Community Pharmacists
RQIA
Regional Diabetes Network