

To:
HSC Trusts
GP Practices
GP OOH
Community Pharmacy
Care homes
Domiciliary Care
Dental Practices
Optometry Practices
Independent Clinics
Private Hospitals

Strategic Planning and Performance Group
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Date: August 2022

Dear Colleague,

Know Check Ask 'Medication Without Harm' Campaign Resources

The Department of Health has launched a medication safety campaign titled Know, Check, Ask (KCA) which has been developed to support the World Health Organization's (WHO) 3rd Global Patient Safety Challenge **Medication without Harm**. The aim of the WHO challenge is to reduce severe avoidable harm by 50% globally over the next 5 years.

Included with this letter are a range of resources to support the campaign (see below for further information).

The KCA medication safety campaign promotes the use of a three-step checking system to help increase awareness of, and educate the public and healthcare professionals about, the importance of using medication safely. It will also support people to be more involved in decisions about their medication and encourage them to report issues and concerns they have. Further information is available in the campaign HSC staff briefing document which is available at <https://online.hscni.net/know-check-ask>

The first phase of the Know, Check, Ask medication safety campaign was launched in Community Pharmacies across Northern Ireland in May and June 2022 through the public health Living Well campaign. The aim of this campaign was to raise awareness and educate the public about medication safety.

The second phase of the Know, Check Ask campaign aims to extend medication safety awareness throughout the wider health and social care sector. The launch of this phase of the campaign on Monday 12th September 2022, coincides with World Patient Safety Day on 17th September 2022. World Patient Safety Day is one of WHO's global public health days and is firmly entrenched in the principle of medicine – first do no harm.

The objectives of Phase 2 of the campaign include:

- To raise awareness of the KCA campaign and medication safety
- To promote the use of a simple 3 step checking process KCA
- To reduce the risk of medication errors
- To support patients (and/or their carers) in taking more responsibility for their own medication and health

To support Phase 2 of the KCA campaign, the Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG) has provided the following printed resources for you to **display prior to the official launch on Monday 12th September** (it will be appropriate to continue displaying after the campaign) for Patients and Health Care Professional (HCP) staff, in order to raise awareness of the campaign.

- **My Medicines List:** please share with patients
- **Public Poster:** please display in public areas.
- **Health Care Professional Poster:** please display in HCP staff areas.
- **KCA Stickers:** Distributed to HSCT Pharmacies for applying to dispensing bags.
- **Animation** to explain KCA for **members of the public/patients.**
- **Animation** to explain KCA for **Health Care Professionals.**

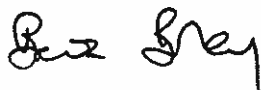
Digital Resources

A range of digital online resources are available to help your organisation promote this campaign across internal and external channels.

The full toolkit of resources for health and social care professionals and more information on the campaign can be found at <https://online.hscni.net/know-check-ask>

If you have any queries about the campaign or if you require printed resources, please email jane.keenan@hscni.net .

Yours sincerely,



Dr Brenda Bradley
Pharmacy Lead
Strategic Planning and Performance Group

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Before you give it...



Everyone has a role to play

! Know
your medications

✓ Check
you have the right:

- Patient
- Medicine
- Route
- Dose
- Time

? Ask

- your patient if they understand
- your colleagues when you are unsure



<https://online.hscni.net/know-check-ask>

To Scan the QR code
On your mobile phone open the camera.
Point the camera at the QR code.
Tap the pop up banner that appears.

