

**Consultation on amendment of the Medicines (Standing Order) Regulations to enable nurse practitioners to issue standing orders**

Please respond to the questions below.

<p>1. What do you see as the potential benefits of an amendment to the Regulations to authorise nurse practitioners to issue standing orders <b>now</b> rather than as part of the review of the regulatory regime for therapeutic products?</p> <p>Nurse practitioners (specialising in older adults care) are currently prescribing for residents in Age Related Residential Care (ARRC) facilities and would benefit from having the ability to utilise standing orders in the same way that General Practitioners do. Standing orders can support timely appropriate treatment. The requirements around using standing orders are quite clear and allow for a high level of safety for residents. If a Health Professional is deemed safe to prescribe in his/her scope of practice this should include the use of standing orders.</p>
<p>2. What do you see as the potential risks of an amendment to the Regulations to authorise nurse practitioners to issue standing orders <b>now</b> rather than as part of the review of the regulatory regime for therapeutic products?</p> <p>I see it as very low risk (no more risk than any other prescribing) with potentially more benefits to consumers.</p>
<p>3. Please provide examples to show the implications of an amendment to the Regulations to authorise nurse practitioners to issue standing orders <b>now</b> rather than as part of the review of the regulatory regime for therapeutic products?</p> <p>The main implication is that Nurse Practitioners will be able to use their clinical judgement within their scope of practice regarding what is most appropriate for the client group they are serving now versus later. E.g. Enabling a Registered Nurse working in a geriatric hospital the ability to over the counter medication such as paracetamol to a resident they know well for the relief of common ailments. This allows rapid relief of symptoms and can be followed up with the Nurse Practitioner in a timely manner but there is no delay to appropriate symptom management. The Standing Order guidelines issued 2012 give very clear and precise instruction on the responsibilities of the prescriber writing standing orders.</p>