

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

Please respond to the questions below.

1. What do you see as the potential benefits of an amendment to the Regulations to authorise nurse practitioners to issue standing orders **now** rather than as part of the review of the regulatory regime for therapeutic products?

Nurse practitioners are already working in settings where they give considerable support and direction to registered nurses. Nurse practitioners are proven excellent safe authorised prescribers and further delays in allowing them to take responsibility for nurse audits, countersigning and /or issuing standing orders is unsupportive of more seamless access for clients and appropriate nurse to nurse supervision of practice. It is particularly important for settings where the NP is the lead practitioner and working the most closely with the RN using the standing order

2. What do you see as the potential risks of an amendment to the Regulations to authorise nurse practitioners to issue standing orders **now** rather than as part of the review of the regulatory regime for therapeutic products?

None at all. Nurse Practitioners are ready to take this responsibility as well prepared and cautious prescribers.

3. Please provide examples to show the implications of an amendment to the Regulations to authorise nurse practitioners to issue standing orders **now** rather than as part of the review of the regulatory regime for therapeutic products?

Family Planning use standing orders extensively and when I ask a medical practitioner what I can do to help if they are pressed for time in terms of their clinical work they are most likely to say "if only you could do the countersigning"! Not good use of resources using valuable medical practitioner time to countersign and audit RNs work

Waiting for the review delays putting in place systems and processes that allow more flexibility in provision of clinical services and easier and more timely access to care for clients.