

Appendix 1 Consultation on amendment of the Medicines (Standing Order) Regulations to enable nurse practitioners to issue standing orders

Please respond to the questions below.

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?

1. NP's are currently working with RN's who are providing patient care and support under standing order for the treatment of chronic disease management. NP's are able to amend standing orders and train/supervise nurses in a timely manner that may maintain a more effective and consistent delivery of health care for this patient group. Currently Drs are required to review and sign off standing orders and there may be long delays from the time the review is due and the administration of medication against an updated/amended standing order that may impede necessary patient compliance with medical treatment resulting in additional barriers to healthcare.

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?

Nurse Practitioners are trained within a registered scope of practice and may also be authorised prescribers. NP's are required to practice within their registered scope which includes administration/prescribing of medication in that scope. NP's would only deliver standing orders against conditions within their scope of practice which includes maintaining an evidence based knowledge of conditions and medicines. Therefore there would be no reason to assume any potential risk in authorising NP to issue standing orders now rather than later.

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?

I am currently reviewing standing orders that I have written for the organisation. On completion of researching and writing the standing order the Dr who signs these off reads through them and then signs them; I then teach the RN's the principles of each standing order and carry out a six monthly audit of their administrative practices in conjunction with the Dr. At the moment I am carrying out a review of some standing orders and whilst I am able to do this in a timely manner the Dr only works two days of the week so the proof read and signatory is delayed holding up the service. If I were to have authorisation to issue standing orders then the reviews may be updated and in use in a timely manner.