

29 July 2020

Dear Pharmacist,

Ref: sale and supply of COVID-19 rapid antibody testing kits.

You will be aware of the current discussions around the sale and supply of COVID-19 rapid antibody testing kits.

We wish to clarify our position and remind Pharmacists of their responsibilities in relation to the sale and supply of these kits.

The regulatory responsibility for Medicinal Devices such as these lies with the MHRA and we would recommend that all pharmacists familiarise themselves with their guidance, for example: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-tests-and-testing-kits-for-coronavirus-covid-19-work/for-patients-the-public-and-professional-users-a-guide-to-covid-19-tests-and-testing-kits>. This guidance clearly states that the MHRA has requested that these tests are withdrawn from sale and are not to be supplied at this time.

In addition, the Head of Medicines Regulatory Group Department of Health and the Assistant Director of Integrated Care - Head of Pharmacy & Medicines Management, HSCB, issued a letter on 8 June 2020, which remains their advice: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/Letter-to-CPs-080620.PDF>

The Pharmaceutical Society NI does not have jurisdiction over the sale and supply of these kits, we do, however, set the parameters within which pharmacists in Northern Ireland operate professionally. As such, we would expect all Pharmacists to be aware of the current advice from MHRA and the Department of Health, and that this advice would be followed.

Yours faithfully



Trevor Patterson

Chief Executive and Interim Registrar