

04 April 2011

To: All Community Pharmacists

Dear Colleagues

It has been brought to my attention that there have recently been a number of robberies in Community Pharmacies in the North Belfast area, where controlled drugs have been stolen. These incidents have occurred at a time when the Community Pharmacist had opened the 'time delay' safe either when dispensing a prescription for a controlled drug or close to closing time when transferring money from the till into the safe.

As a result of these incidents, it is advisable to be extra vigilant and consider implementing adequate security measures within your Pharmacy e.g. use of surveillance cameras, instillation of panic buttons, if deemed necessary.

The PDA (Pharmacists Defence Association) has a useful audit tool aimed to reduce the risk of violence in the workplace. This can be used to assess and score the risk of violence towards a Pharmacist and their staff in their working environment. The resource pack helps to generate risk management options and encourages implementation of risk reduction measures. This can be accessed at the following link:

http://www.the-pda.org/pdf/ViolenceInPharmacy_RPack.pdf

I hope this information is helpful and if you have any queries, please contact your Medicines Management Adviser.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Joe Brogan
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Pharmacy and Medicines Management*

