



## SAFETY MEMO 13

To: Directors of Pharmacy/Heads of Pharmacy and Medicines Management, HSC Trusts  
 Cc: Dr N Morrow, Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, DHSSPS  
 Assistant Director Commissioning - Pharmacy and Medicines Management, HSC Board  
 From: Medicines Governance Team  
 Date: 9<sup>th</sup> July 2009

### Re: Revised additive labels

Implementation of NPSA Patient Safety Alert 21 on epidural medicines in Northern Ireland requires use of the colour yellow in labelling medicines for epidural use (HSC (SQSD) 28/2007 Addendum 1/08). A number of hospitals have traditionally used yellow additive labels for other routes of infusion, for example intravenous and subcutaneous infusions, which should be withdrawn from use<sup>1</sup>.

The Medicines Governance Team has reviewed additive labels currently in use and developed two additive labels to assist hospitals implementing this element of the alert. Wide consultation was conducted with staff in developing the new labels. The labels are white with black text and comply with the labelling requirements of NPSA Patient Safety Alert 20 on injectable medicines and the Northern Ireland Intravenous Medicines Administration Guide (2008). Both labels are available from RSS and are shown below together with order codes. Please contact your Medicines Governance Pharmacist for further information.

<b>Medicines added to infusion</b> (WRN2500)				
Patient name and number				
Medicine			Amount	
Route	Diluent		Final volume	
Date/time prepared	Infusion expiry date/time	Prepared by	Checked by	

For use on infusion bags

RSS Order code: WRN2500

<b>Medicines in syringe for injection/infusion</b> (WRN2501)				
Patient name and number				
Medicine			Amount	
Route	Diluent		Final volume	
Date/time prepared	Infusion expiry date/time	Prepared by	Checked by	

For use on syringes for infusion or injection

RSS Order code: WRN2501

<sup>1</sup> Labels used as part of The International Colour Coding System for Syringe Labelling recommended by the Councils of the Royal College of Anaesthetists, the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland, the Faculty of Accident and Emergency Medicine and the Intensive Care Society are not additive labels and will continue to be used in theatre areas  
<http://www.aagbi.org/publications/guidelines/docs/syringelabels03.pdf>