EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Health and Personal Social Services Pharmaceutical Services (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

SR 2014 No. 170

1. Introduction

1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.

1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972 ("the 1972 Order") and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

2. Purpose

2.1. These Regulations ("the 2014 Regulations") further amend the Health and Personal Social Services Pharmaceutical Services Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997 ("the 1997 Regulations"), which regulate the terms under which pharmaceutical services are provided under the 1972 Order.

2.2. The 2014 Regulations contain amendments consequential to the new arrangements for the independent prescribing of drugs and appliances by chiropodists or podiatrists and physiotherapists.

2.3. Regulation 2(2) inserts a new definition of "chiropodist or podiatrist independent prescriber" in Regulation 2 (interpretation) of the 1997 Regulations . Regulation 2(3) inserts a new definition of "physiotheraprist independent prescriber". Regulation 2(4) substitutes a new definition of "prescriber" which includes the new prescribers.

3. Background

3.1. Recent changes to the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 have introduced new arrangements for the independent prescribing of drugs and appliances by chiropodists or podiatrists and physiotherapists. By increasing the range of prescribers it makes it easier for patients to get the medicines they need, increases patient choice amd make better use of the skills of healthcare professionals.

4. Consultation

4.1. As required by the 1972 Order, the Department has consulted with organisations representative of the pharmaceutical profession, namely the Regional Health and Social Care Board, the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland and Community Pharmacy NI.

5. Equality Impact

5.1. As the measure has no adverse impact on section 75 groups the Department has concluded it is not necessary to submit this measure to a full EQIA.

6. Regulatory Impact

6.1. A Regulatory Impact Assessment is not considered necessary as there will be no adverse impact on business, charities, social enterprise or voluntary bodies.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. There are no financial implications.

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

8.1. The proposed legislation is considered compatible with section 24 of the Northern ireland Act 1998. The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission has already been advised of this legislation.

9. EU Implications

9.1. Not applicable.

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

10.1. The amendments parallel changes elsewhere in the UK.

11. Additional Information

11.1. Not applicable.