

Rural Needs Impact Assessment

Section 1: Define activity subject to Section 1(1) of Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

1A. Short title describing activity being undertaken that is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016:

Development of a policy to support the Self or Carer administration of IV antimicrobials in patients own home without the assistance of nursing staff.

1B. Are you Developing, Adopting, Implementing or Revising a Policy a Strategy or a Plan? Or are you delivering or designing a public service? (Underline or Circle) What is official title of this Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public service (if any)?

Developing a new policy: Self or Carer administration of IV antimicrobials (SOPAT)

1C. Give details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service:

To provide governance to support patients administer IV antibiotics within their own home.

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to provide consistent Trust-wide procedures for the selection, training and competency assessment of patients for the self-administration of IV antimicrobials OPAT program (SOPAT). This policy should be read in conjunction with appropriate Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy (OPAT), medicines and medicines administration policies.

Objectives:

To facilitate the development of carer or self-administration of IV antimicrobial services within the Trust as part of OPAT services.

1D. What definition of 'rural' is the Trust using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service:

- Rural is defined as 'those population settlements of less than 5,000 residents together with open countryside'.
- Rural communities in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council area of the Southern Trust represent a 48% of the total population with nearly 100,000 people locally living in rural areas.
- When considered in relation to the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council area of the Southern Trust, it is clear that significant areas of the Cusher DEA (Wards:Hamiltonsbawn, Markethill, Richhill, Seagahan, and Tandragee) and Lagan River DEA (Wards: Donaghcloney, Dromore, Gransha, Quilly, and Waringstown) need particular consideration in relation to access to services.
- Rural communities in the Newry and Mourne area of the Southern Trust represent roughly 63%of the total population,(Total 106,000 census 2011)

- When considered in relation to the Newry and Mourne area of the Southern Trust three of the four DEA's, Crotlieve, South Armagh, Mourne, would be considered almost entirely rural with exceptions being Kilkeel (Mourne), Warrenpoint (Crotlieve)

Section 2 - Understanding impact of Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

2A. Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?

Yes No If response is NO Go To Section 2E.

2B. How is it likely to impact on people in rural areas?

People in rural areas will be able to avail of the service to the same degree as patients in urban areas.

2C. If the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas, please explain how it is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently?

It won't impact people differently. It will provide additional options for those living in rural areas as it will for patient living in urban areas. As patients will be administering their own antibiotics they will be trained within a secondary care setting. They will receive medication on discharge in order to continue to administer antibiotics at home. Thus, the same procedures will be relevant irrespective of the area of residence.

2D. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on.

Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas		Community Safety or Rural Crime		Agriculture-Environment	
Education or Training in Rural Areas		Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas	X	Other, please state below;	
Rural Development		Broadband/Mobile Communications in Rural Areas			
Poverty or Deprivation in Rural Areas		Rural Business, Tourism or Housing			

2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.

People in rural areas will be able to avail of the service to the same degree as patients in urban areas. People from rural areas will be initiated the treatment within secondary care, as will people from urban areas and be provided with the same discharge arrangements and follow up irrespective of area of residence.

If you completed 2E above GO TO Section 6

SECTION 3 - Identifying Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

3A. Has the Trust taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas, relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service? Yes No if the response is NO, GO TO Section 3D

3B. Which of following methods or information sources were used by the Trust to identify these needs? Consultation with relevant stakeholders / Survey or Questionnaire / Research / Statistics / Publications / Other methods. Please provide details:

3C. What social and economic needs of the people in rural areas have been identified?

3D Please explain why no steps were taken by the Trust to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

SECTION 4 - Considering Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

4A. What issues were considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

SECTION 5 - Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

5A. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been changed by consideration of the rural needs identified? Yes No if the response is NO, GO TO Section 5C

5B. If yes, how have rural needs influenced the policy, strategy plan or public service?

5C. If no, why have the rural needs identified not influenced the policy, strategy, plan or public service?

Section 6: Documentation:

6A. Please tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Trust and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance.

I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained and relevant information compiled.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:	Peter McKee		
Job Title/Directorate	Lead OPAT Pharmacist		
Signature:	Peter McKee	Date:	3/2/23
Approved by:	Matthew Smith		
Job Title/Directorate	Equality Advisor		
Signature:	Matthew Smith	Date:	9/11/23