

As you may be aware J McGregor Chemist had taken the decision to withdraw from the provision of the Needle and Syringe Exchange Service (NSES) in their pharmacy in Botanic Avenue, Belfast from Tuesday 1st September 2020. They have been a valuable partner in the delivery of this vital health service since the inception of NSES services. Those who use the service in Belfast will continue to have full access to needle exchange services.

Service users can be redirected to other needle exchange community pharmacies, and for the more complex clients, community-based service providers, including Belfast HSCT Drug Outreach team, Extern Harm Reduction Hub and Belfast Inclusion Health service will be providing continued support in response to need.

The nearest needle exchanges are:

<p>Chemist Connect 59 High Street, Belfast BT1 2AB</p> <p>T: 028 9023 1002</p> <p>Open Monday to Saturday 9am to 6pm</p>	<p>TA Maguire Ltd 3 Beechmount Avenue Belfast BT12 7NA</p> <p>T: 028 9032 0590</p> <p>Open Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm, Saturday 9am to 5pm</p>	<p>Belfast Drug Outreach Team (DOT) – Belfast Health & Social Care Trust</p> <p>159 Durham Street, Belfast BT12 4GB</p> <p>T: 028 9504 1433</p> <p>Open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm</p>	<p>Community Based Needle Exchange service / Harm reduction Hub – Extern</p> <p>9 Rosemary Street, Belfast BT1 1QD (reduced opening hours)</p> <p>Freephone: 0800 085 8426</p> <p>Current hours of outreach service Monday to Friday 8am to 9pm; Saturday & Sunday 9am to 5pm</p>	<p>Belfast Inclusion Health Service 28 Townsend Street, Belfast BT13 2ES</p> <p>T: 028 9504 3535</p>
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The Needle and Syringe Exchange Scheme is vital to the health and wellbeing of the entire community, helping to reduce the potential of drug-related litter, lowering the risk of HIV and Hepatitis B and C within the wider population, and putting those who use the service in direct contact with a health professional who can help them in engaging with treatment services to address their drug misuse. Needle exchange services are based in areas where there is an existing pattern of people who inject but help protect everyone in the community.

Anyone who injects substances can use a needle exchange service, and this includes people who inject opioids, steroids, tanning agent's or stimulants.

Please share this information with service users to ensure they are aware of their nearest needle exchange