



Medicines & Healthcare products  
Regulatory Agency



**Yellow Card**



**Yellow Card**

CENTRE NORTHERN IRELAND  
Yellow Card reporting for patient safety

# Yellow Card Centre Northern Ireland Annual Report 2024/2025



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**YELLOW CARD CENTRE  
NORTHERN IRELAND**

**ANNUAL REPORT TO MHRA**

**Date: 01/04/2024 – 31/03/2025**

**1. Yellow Card Centre Team**

Dr Mark Cross	Deputy Medical Director Risk and Governance Belfast HSC Trust Medical Lead for Yellow Card centre Northern Ireland
Miss Paula King	Regional Lead Pharmacist Northern Ireland Medicines and Poisons Advice Service and Yellow Card centre Northern Ireland
Mrs Áine Liggett	Lead Pharmacist Yellow Card centre Northern Ireland and Lead Pharmacist pharmacovigilance Northern Ireland Medicines and Poisons Advice Service
Mrs Siobhan Kelly	Lead Nurse Safety and Quality, with responsibility for Yellow Card Reporting, Belfast HSC Trust, Yellow Card centre Northern Ireland

**Medication Safety Oversight Board**

The Yellow Card centre, hosted by Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, reports to the Medication Safety Oversight Board (MSOB). This board provides strategic oversight and ensures accountability for the delivery of the Transforming Medication Safety in Northern Ireland (TMSNI) programme, including the Yellow Card centre Northern Ireland. The chair of the Medication Safety Oversight Board is the Chief Medical Officer, and the co-chair is the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer with membership comprising of relevant policy officials from the Department of Health, Strategic Planning and Performance Group, the Public Health Agency (PHA) and Health and Social Care Quality Improvement network (HSCQI).

The Strategic Planning and Performance Group of the Department of Health Northern Ireland is responsible for the overall implementation of the TMSNI strategy. The TMSNI organisational chart is available in appendix 2.

The work of the Yellow Card centre forms an integral part of the Department of Health's TMSNI strategy. The NI strategy commits to work with health and social care providers, patient groups, community, and voluntary organisations to raise public awareness of the benefits of reporting medication issues, and support patients and carers to report any issues and concerns by addressing barriers to reporting.



## 2. Executive summary

This report provides an overview of Yellow Card reporting activity in Northern Ireland for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. The data indicates a sustained upward trend in reporting, with a total of 832 Yellow Card submissions, representing a 4.39% increase compared to 2023/2024. The reporting rate per 100,000 population also rose from 41.7 to 43.3, reflecting enhanced engagement across Northern Ireland.

Healthcare professionals continued to be the primary source of reports, accounting for 65% of submissions. Reports from patient and public groups increased by 18%, now comprising 35% of total submissions.

Promotional and educational activities were delivered across Northern Ireland targeting both healthcare professionals and the general public. These included 18 training sessions for healthcare professionals and 8 public engagement events, reaching a total of 303 professionals and 121 members of the public. Additionally, promotional stands were hosted across HSC Trusts, resulting in a total of 540 interactions with both patients and healthcare staff at these events.

The 2023/2024 annual report set out strategic aims for 2024/2025, including increasing public awareness of the Yellow Card scheme through patient-centred initiatives. With the successful delivery of eight public engagement activities, YCC Northern Ireland not only met, but exceeded this objective. The launch of the Yellow Card centre Northern Ireland website in February 2025 further supported awareness and accessibility.

Despite progress, a decline in reporting from certain healthcare groups, particularly allied healthcare professionals were observed. Developing an inclusive network of Yellow Card Champions from all professions across Northern Ireland will be a key goal over 2025/2026 and continuing into 2026/2027.

YCC Northern Ireland were fortunate to receive valuable support from MHRA colleagues, including assistance with the delivery of a regional awareness and education session -TMSNI ECHO session - to multi-disciplinary colleagues. An operational visit in January 2025 by Deputy Director of Patient Safety Monitoring, Safety and Surveillance Group and Head of Vigilance Development, allowed information exchange and further strengthening collaborative efforts.



### 3. Yellow Card data

#### Note on Data

Yellow Card reports are submitted to the MHRA. The MHRA provides reporting data to the Yellow Card centre (YCC) Northern Ireland region for local analysis and review.

Yellow Card reporters are encouraged to report the medicine or vaccine suspected of causing the adverse reaction, and any other medicines that the person is taking at the time of report. For the year 2024/2025 only reports for suspect medicines were provided to the Yellow Card centre Northern Ireland.

In 2024/2025, several reports included more than one suspect product. As a result, the total number of suspect products reported during this period exceeds the number of individual reports submitted. From Section 3b onwards, the reference figure used is the total number of suspect products.

Multiple reporters may independently submit reports of the same suspected adverse reaction. These duplicate reports are initially included in the overall reporting figures to provide a comprehensive view of reporting activity in Northern Ireland. Following further analysis, duplicate reports are identified and removed from the dataset. For the reporting period 2024/2025, no duplicate reports were identified in the Northern Ireland data.



### a. Total numbers

A total of 832 Yellow Card (YC) reports of suspected adverse reactions to healthcare products originated from the YCC Northern Ireland region in 2024/2025. This is an increase of 4.39%, from 797 reports submitted in 2023/2024, table 1.

A notable increase in the number of reports submitted was observed in Quarter 4 (January - March 2025), as shown in Figure 1. However, it is too early to identify any consistent patterns or influencing factors affecting reporting trends throughout the year.

Year	COVID-19	Non- COVID-19	Total Number of reports	Percentage change on previous year
2024/2025	Not available	Not available	832	+4.39%
2023/2024	Not available	Not available	797*	+32%
2022/2023 <sup>†</sup>	Not available	Not available	935 <sup>†</sup>	-
2021/2022 <sup>†</sup>	Not available	Not available	4390 <sup>†</sup>	-
2022	493	603*	1096	-

Table 1 Number of Yellow Card reports submitted from Northern Ireland over the last five years

*\*Percentage (%) change calculated from non-COVID-19 (excluding COVID-19 vaccine and treatment reports) to reflect pre-pandemic reporting level*

*<sup>†</sup>From July 2022 Yellow Card reports for COVID-19 vaccines and treatments have been included within the overall reporting numbers. For full context, refer to the 2023/2024 annual report.*

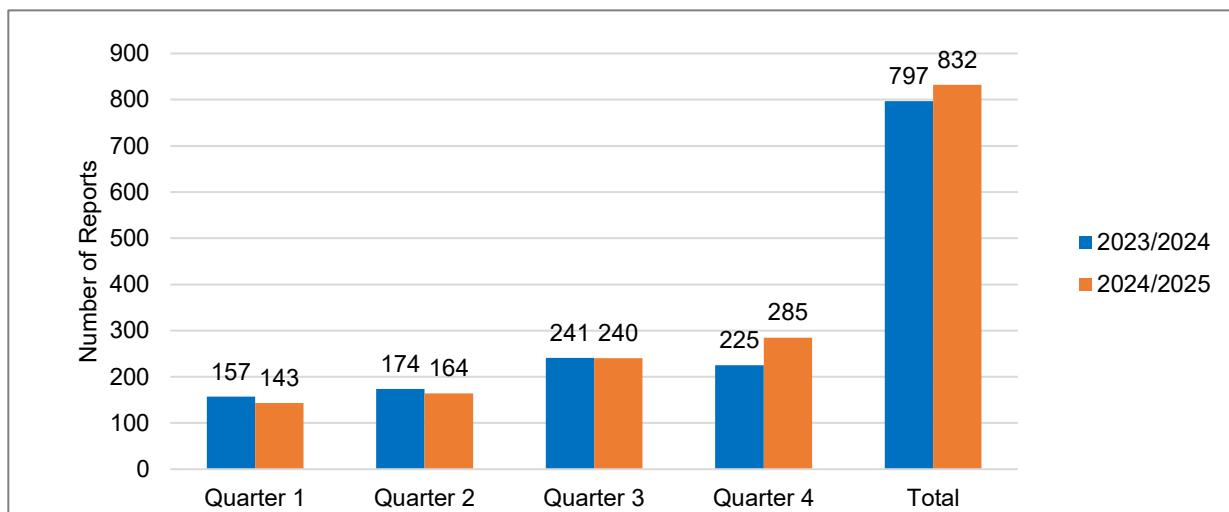


Figure 1 Number of Yellow Card Reports submitted from Northern Ireland -2023/2024 vs 2024/2025

Prior to 2023 the reporting rate per 100,000 population remained consistently below 40 reports per 100,000. Figure 2 shows the reporting rate for 2024/2025 is 43.3 per 100,000, based on Northern Irelands population of 1.93 million<sup>1</sup>. This is an increase from 41.7 reports per 100,000 for 2023/2024.

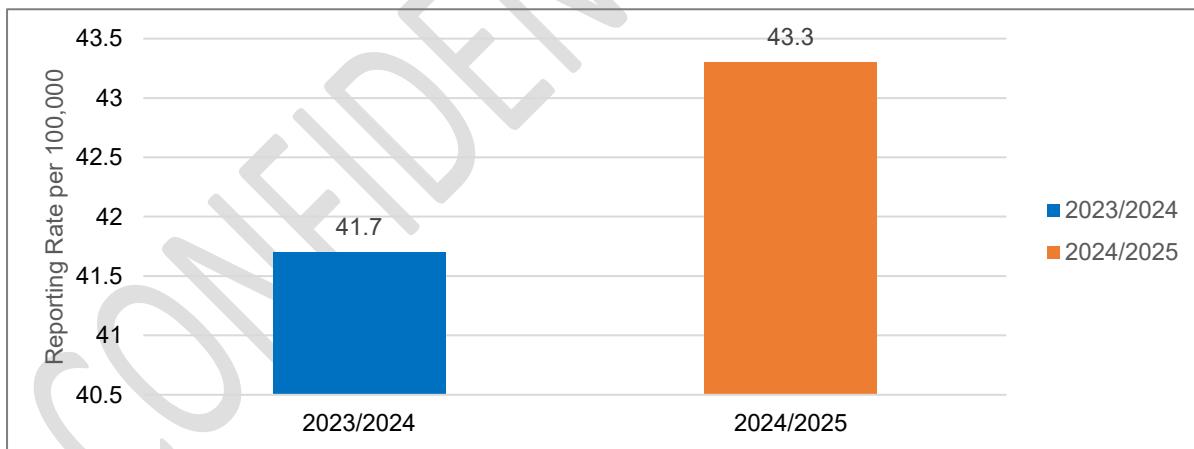


Figure 2 Northern Ireland Yellow Card Reporting Rate per 100,000 population - 2023/2024 vs 2024/2025

<sup>1</sup> Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (2025). *2024 Mid-Year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland and Estimates of the Population Aged 85 and Over*. Published 11 September 2025. Available at: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/2024-mid-year-population-estimates-northern-ireland-and-estimates-population-aged-85>



Yellow Card reports from each of the five Health and Social Care HSC geographical areas in Northern Ireland are shown in figure 3.

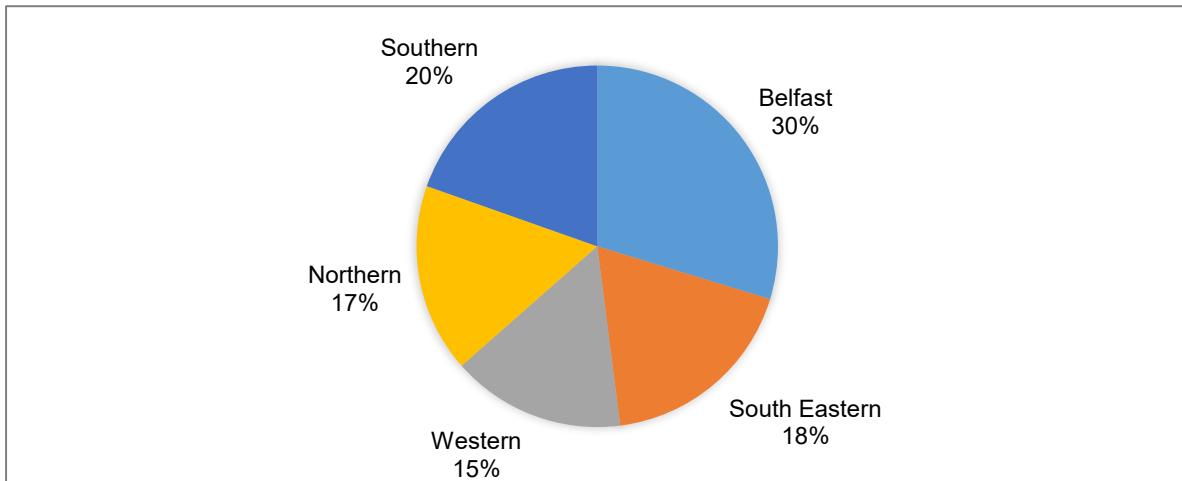


Figure 3 Percentage of Northern Ireland Yellow Card Reports from each HSC geographical area 2024/2025

During 2024/2025 a similar reporting trend was observed across all HSC geographies, reflecting the pattern seen in 2023/2024, figure 4.

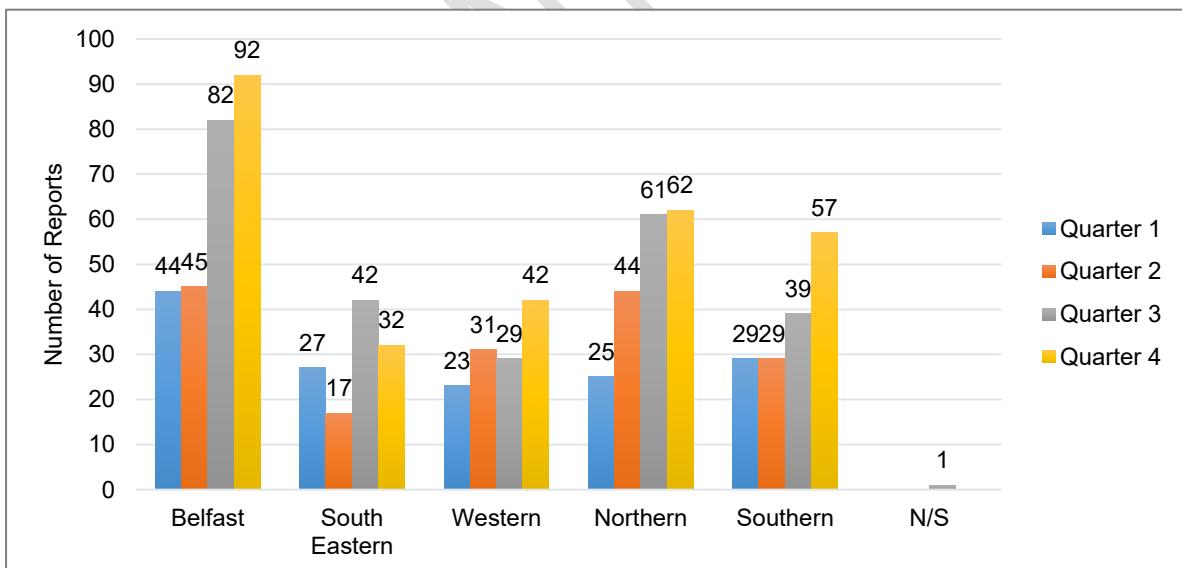


Figure 4 Quarterly Yellow Card Reports by HSC Geography for 2024/2025



### b. Number of Suspect Products

In 2024/2025, several reports identified more than one suspect product, within the same report. As a result, the total number of suspect products reported during this period exceeds the number of individual reports submitted. A total of 853 suspected products were reported. From this point forward, for analysis purposes, the reference figure used is the total number of suspected products, rather than the number of reports.

The number of products identified as suspect during 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 is shown in table 2. Information on the number of suspect products is not available prior to 2023/2024. Due to the absence of data prior to 2023/2024, it is difficult to contextualise this figure or determine whether it represents a true change in reporting practice. YCC Northern Ireland will continue to monitor the number of suspected products reported in the coming years.

Year	Number of suspect products	Percentage change on previous year
2024/ 2025	853	+38.9%
2023/2024	614	-

Table 2 Number of Suspect Products in Northern Ireland Yellow Card Submissions 2024/2025 and 2023/2024

### c. Reporter qualifications

Reporters self-select the category that best describes their role when completing a Yellow Card report. In 2025, the MHRA refined the reporting process by updating how users identify their reporting group. This may have influenced how reporters classified themselves during submission, potentially affecting the distribution of reporter types in the data.

Reporters are grouped into broad categories such as 'Health Professional' and 'Patient & Public' to support clearer data analysis and interpretation of reporting trends.



In 2024/2025, reports from the 'Patient & Public' group accounted for 35% of all Yellow Card submissions from Northern Ireland, totalling three hundred reports - a percentage increase of 18% from 254 reports in 2023/2024. Reports from all 'Health Professional' groups made up 65% of submissions, with 553 reports in 2024/2025. This represents a small percentage increase of 2% from 543 reports in 2023/2024, figure 5.

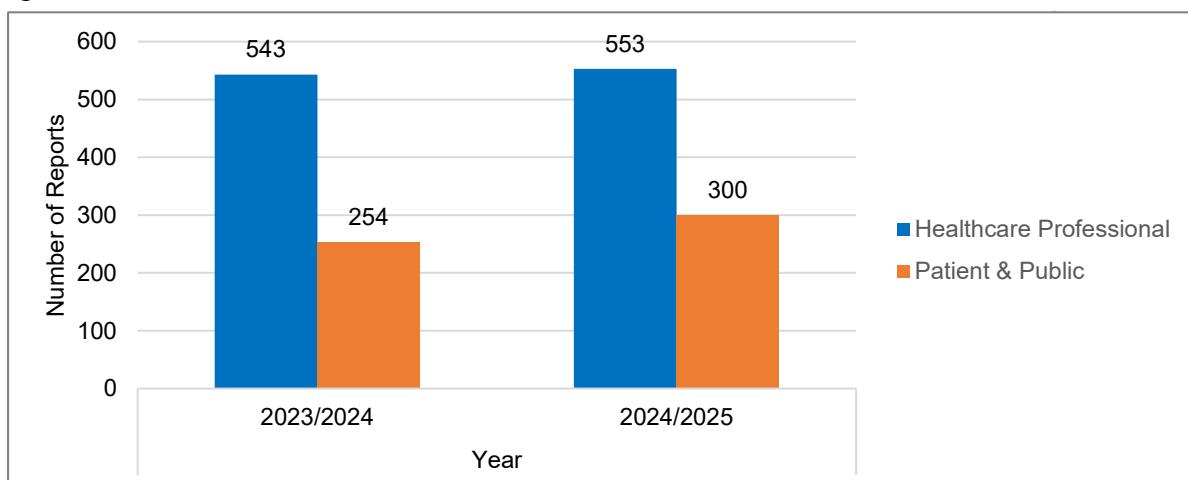


Figure 5 Yellow Card Reports by high level reporter group – comparison of 2023/2024 and 2024/2025

Figure 6 provides an overview of Yellow Card reports submitted by health professionals and patient and public groups during the 2024/2025 reporting period.

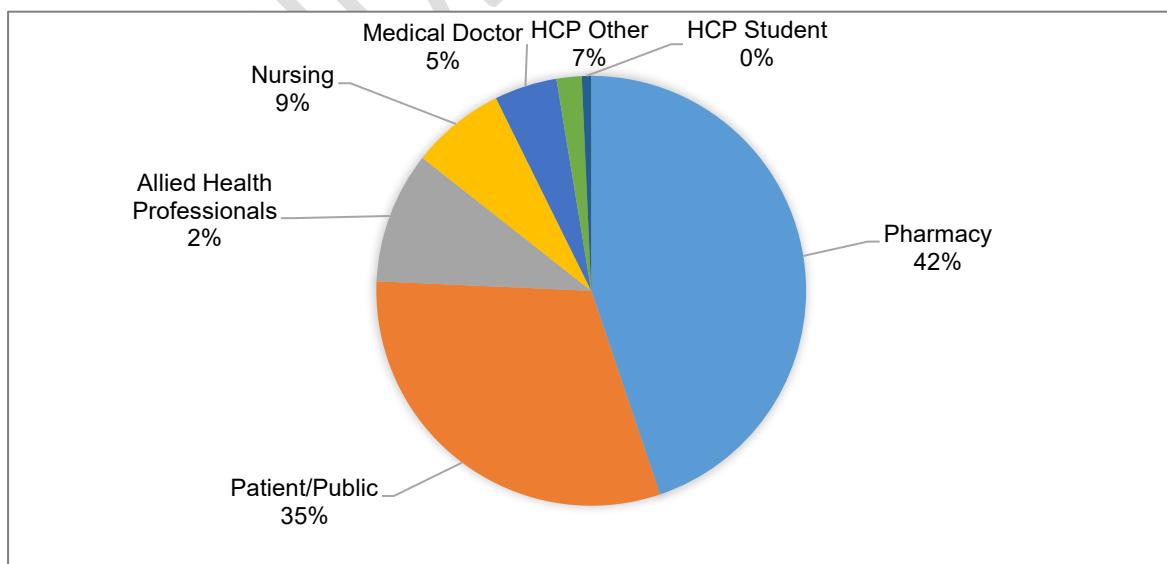


Figure 6 Yellow Card Reports by reporter group for 2024/2025



Table 3 presents a comparison of 2024/2025 with previous 2023/2024 data, showing changes in reporting patterns across reporter groups.

In 2024/2025, reports from pharmacy professionals, patient and public groups increased. In contrast reports from medical and dental professionals and allied health professionals declined compared to the previous year. Reports from nursing professionals showed a small increase in 2024/2025.

Reporter group	2024/2025	2023/2024	Percentage change on previous year
Pharmacy Professionals	360	310	+16.1%
Patient & Public Groups	300	254	+18.1%
Medical Professionals (incl. Dentistry)	73	96	-24%
Allied Health Professional	43	83	-48.2%
Nursing Professionals	56	54	+3.7%
Health Care Professional Other	18	-	-
Health Care Professional Student	3	-	-
Total Reports	853	797	-

Table 3 Yellow Card Reporter groups in Northern Ireland - 2023/2024 vs 2024/2025

Table 4, on the following page outlines the distribution of Yellow Card reports submitted in Northern Ireland over the past two years. The top five reporter groups, highlighted in table 4, accounted for 73% of all Yellow Card reports from Northern Ireland in 2024/2025.



Reporter	2024/2025	2023/2024	2022/2023 <sup>2</sup>	2021/22 <sup>2</sup>
Patient	270	207	350	2798
Hospital Pharmacist	123	71	59	67
Pharmacist	120	182	152	174
Trainee Pharmacist	66	36	38	<5
Radiographer	41	63	51	36
Hospital Doctor	32	51	62	126
Community Pharmacist	29	19	12	22
GP	27	34	30	198
Nurse	23	44	47	121
Hospital Nurse	21	7	15	43
Parent	21	32	40	365
Primary Care Pharmacist	20	-	-	-
Other Healthcare Professional	14	10	19	81
Practice Nurse	8	-	-	-
Consumer	7	14	30	187
Surgeon	5	-	-	-
Mental Health Physician	5	-	-	-
Hospital Healthcare Professional	3	2	<5	10
Physician	3	2	19	17
School Nurse	2	-	-	-
Pharmacy Technician	2	-	-	-
Pharmacy student	2	-	-	-
Carer	2	1	<5	20
Mental Health Nurse	2	-	-	-
Medical student	1	0	<5	7
Anaesthetist	1	-	-	-
Professional Carer	1	-	-	-
Optometrist	1	5	0	0
Paramedic	1	-	-	-
Chiropodist	0	0	<5	<5
Coroner	0	0	<5	7

Table 4 Northern Ireland Yellow Card reports by reporter qualification 2024/2025

<sup>2</sup> Limitation: It is not possible to present a detailed breakdown of non- COVID- 19 reports by reporter qualification for 2022/2023 and 2021/2022.



#### d. Serious reports

Yellow Card reports can be classified as serious if they meet at least one of the following criteria: fatal, life threatening, disabling or incapacitating, resulting in or prolonging hospitalisation, suspected association with congenital abnormality, or those which are deemed as medically significant by the reporter.

It is important to note that a Yellow Card represents a suspected association between a medicine and an adverse reaction. It does not confirm a direct cause-and-effect relationship between the medicine and the reported serious outcome.

In 2024/2025, 429 Yellow Card reports were classified as serious, representing 50% of all submissions from Northern Ireland, table 5. This is a percentage increase of 22.2% compared to the previous year 2023/2024<sup>3</sup>. It is important to consider the percentage change with caution due to the small number of comparable data points.

Year	Number of Serious Reports	Percentage of total reports (%)	Percentage change on previous year (%)
2024/2025	429	50	+22.2%
2023/2024	351	44	-
2022/2023 <sup>3</sup>	606	-	-
2021/2022 <sup>3</sup>	3412	-	-

Table 5 Northern Ireland Yellow Card reports classified as serious, 2024/2025

Serious Yellow Card reports increased across both healthcare professional and patient/public groups. Consistent with 2023/2024 reporting, the majority of serious reports continued to originate from healthcare professionals.

Figure 7, on the following page, shows in 2024/2025, healthcare professionals submitted 260 serious reports, accounting for 60% of all 429 serious reports received from Northern Ireland.

<sup>3</sup> Limitation: It is not possible to present a breakdown of non- COVID- 19 reports classified as serious for 2021/2022 and 2022/2023.

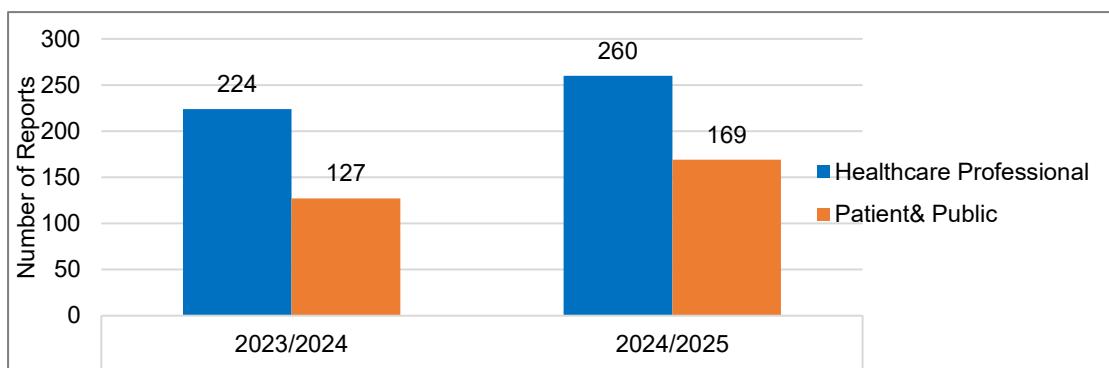


Figure 7 Northern Ireland Yellow Card reports classified as serious by high level reporter group, 2024/2025

#### e. Fatal reports

Yellow Card reports submitted from the Northern Ireland region where the outcome has been fatal are shown in Table 6. There were six reports with a fatal outcome reported in 2024/2025. This represents an increase compared to the previous year, possibly reflecting heightened awareness and improved reporting practices across the region. It is important to note that the percentage change appears large due to the small number of reports involved and should therefore be considered with caution.

A Yellow Card is a report of a **suspicion** that an adverse effect is associated with a medicine **only** and **does not confirm** a direct cause-and-effect relationship between the suspect medicine and the serious outcome.

Year	Number of Fatal Reports	Percentage change on previous year (%)
2024/2025	6	+500%
2023/2024	1	-
2022/2023	15	-
2021/2022	30	-

Table 6 Northern Ireland Fatal Yellow Card reports, 2024/2025



#### f. Age breakdown

Figure 8 and table 7, on the following page present the breakdown of Yellow Card reports from Northern Ireland by patient age during 2024/2025.

Yellow Card reporting showed an upward trend with patient age in 2024/2025 echoing the pattern previously observed in 2023/2024.

Just over a quarter of Yellow Card reports did not include a patient age, representing a 3.86% increase compared with 2023/2024.

In reports that did include the patient age, 21% involved patients aged 65 years and over.

Compared to the previous year, there was a decrease in reports for age groups 17 and under, while reports for those in age groups between 18-34 years increased.

Reports for those aged 75 years and over showed a percentage increase of 22% from the previous year.

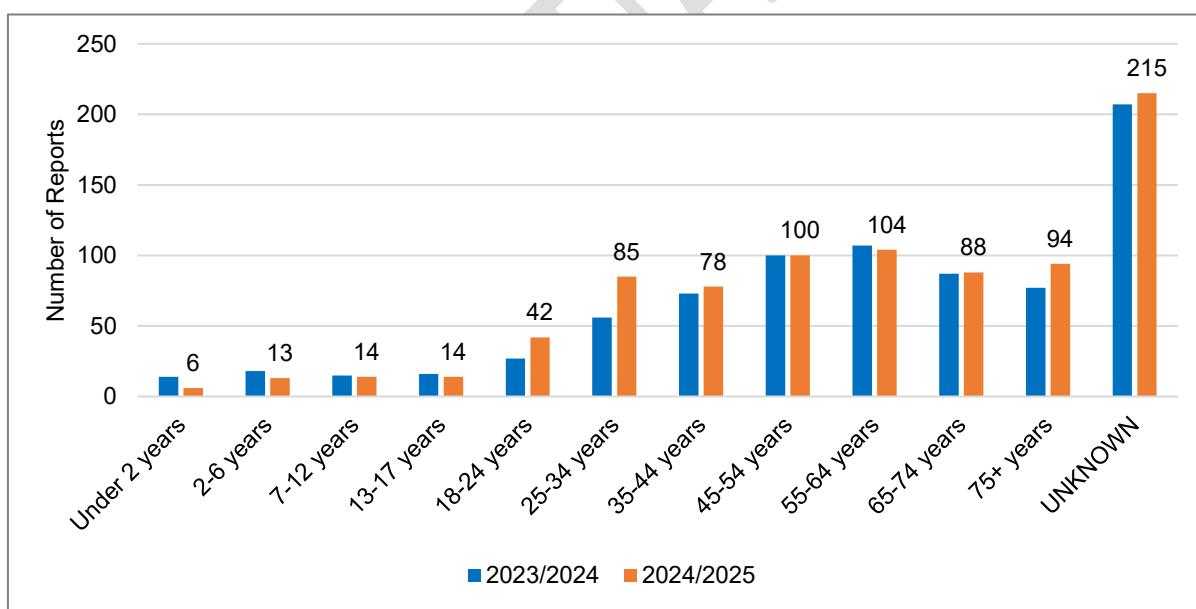


Figure 8 Northern Ireland Yellow Card reports by age group, 2024/2025



Age band (years)	2024/2025 Number of Reports	2023/2024 Number of Reports	Percentage change on previous year (%)
Under 2 years	6	14	-57.14%
2-6 years	13	18	-27.78%
7-12 years	14	15	-6.67%
13-17 years	14	16	-12.50%
18-24 years	42	27	+55.56%
25-34 years	85	56	+51.79%
35-44 years	78	73	+6.85%
45-54 years	100	100	+0.00%
55-64 years	104	107	-2.80%
65-74 years	88	87	+1.15%
75+ years	94	77	+22.08%
Unknown	215	207	+3.86%

Table 7 Northern Ireland Yellow Card reports by age band (years), 2024/2025

In 2024/2025, Yellow Card reporting by patient age showed an upward trend across all HSC regions. Some reports did not include patient age, with the highest proportion of omissions observed in the Southern HSC area, where 31% of reports did not include this information, table 8.

Age band (years)	Belfast	Northern	South Eastern	Southern	Western	N/S
Under 2 years	2	2	1		1	
2-6 years	4	2	2	3	2	
7-12 years	2	2	1	5	4	
13-17 years	8	-	2	2	2	
18-24 years	11	13	4	7	7	
25-34 years	37	9	17	15	6	1
35-44 years	15	21	13	18	11	
45-54 years	28	28	9	14	21	
55-64 years	38	27	17	15	7	
65-74 years	24	28	9	11	16	
75+ years	28	23	11	16	16	
Unknown	66	37	32	48	32	
Total	263	192	118	154	125	1

Table 8 Northern Ireland Yellow Card reports by age/HSC Geographical area, 2024/2025



### g. Top 10 Suspected Medicines and reactions tables

Yellow Card reporters identify the medicine(s) that they suspect may have caused an adverse reaction and specify the nature of the reaction(s) experienced.

Table 9 lists the ten most frequently reported suspect medicines in Northern Ireland for 2024/2025 and 2023/2024.

MHRA data supplied to YCC Northern Ireland does not classify suspect medicines by therapeutic class. Due to local capacity constraints, this process of classification by therapeutic class has not been undertaken for 2024/2025.

Position	Product Name	Number of reports
<b>2024/2025</b>		
1	Tirzepatide	45
2	Semaglutide ▼*	26
3	Iomeprol	19
4	Andusomeran ▼ (COVID-19 vaccine)	18
-	Chadox1 ncov-19 ▼ (COVID-19 vaccine)	18
5	Adalimumab	17
-	Iohexol	17
6	Atorvastatin	14
7	Varicella zoster virus (vaccine)	13
8	Sertraline	12
9	Amlodipine	11
-	Influenza virus ▼ (vaccine)	11
10	Nitrofurantoin	10

Position	Product Name	Number of reports
<b>2023/2024</b>		
1	COVID-19 vaccine ▼	60
2	Iodine (Iomeprol)	28
3	Iohexol	28
4	Influenza vaccine ▼	21
5	Ceftriaxone	17
6	Atorvastatin	9
7	Doxycycline	9
8	Ferric derisomaltose	9
9	Clarithromycin	8
10	MMR vaccine ▼	7
-	Amlodipine	7
-	Dupilumab	7
-	Flucloxacillin	7

Table 9 Top 10 suspect products from Northern Ireland Yellow Card report, 2023/2024 and 2024/2025

\*Black triangle Status (▼) applies to some brands ▼Product subject to additional monitoring



Reporters can record multiple adverse reactions for a single suspect product within one Yellow Card report. During 2024/2025, a total of 1796 reactions were documented in Northern Ireland Yellow Card submissions.

Table 10 below, displays the ten most frequently reported adverse reactions submitted through Yellow Card reports from Northern Ireland during 2024/2025.

During 2024/2025 the most frequently documented reactions were rash and nausea. Medication error was the sixth most commonly reported adverse reaction in this period.

Reporters submitting a Yellow Card may designate “medication error” as the reported reaction experienced.

	Reaction	Number of Reports
1	Rash	68
2	Nausea	48
3	Pruritus	47
4	Fatigue	46
5	Headache	45
6	Medication error	37
7	Vomiting	36
8	Dizziness	33
9	Urticaria	32
10	Diarrhoea	29

Table 10 Top 10 most frequently reported adverse reactions from Northern Ireland Yellow Card reports 2024/2025



Table 11 below, provides a summary of the ten most frequently reported adverse reactions associated with the suspect products identified in Table 9. Among these, the most commonly reported adverse reaction was rash.

	<b>Reaction</b>	<b>Number of Reports</b>
1	Rash	47
2	Pruritus	25
3	Urticaria	23
4	Diarrhoea	20
5	Dizziness	20
6	Anxiety	19
7	Headache	18
8	Erythema	17
9	Alopecia	15
10	Fatigue	13

Table 11 Top ten most frequently reported adverse reactions associated with suspect products listed in Table

Table 12, on the following page, displays the ten most frequently reported adverse reactions associated with reports classified by reporters as serious for 2024/2025, (section 3d).

Medication error was the most commonly reported reaction, accounting for thirty-six reports, followed by fatigue with twenty-seven reports and COVID-19 with twenty-one reports.



	Reaction	Number of Reports
1	Medication error	36
2	Fatigue	27
3	COVID-19	21
4	Arthralgia	20
4	Rash	
5	Dyspnoea	19
6	Nausea	15
6	Myalgia	
7	Brain fog	14
7	Pain	
7	Headache	
7	Vomiting	
8	Muscular weakness	13
8	Pruritus	
8	Suicidal ideation	
9	Dizziness	12
9	Swelling face	
10	Pyrexia	11
10	Diarrhoea	
10	Hypertension	
10	Vision blurred	
10	Anxiety	

Table 12 Ten Most Frequently Reported Adverse Reactions in Serious Yellow Card Reports from Northern Ireland, 2024/2025



## **h. Sources of reports**

Yellow Card reports can be submitted electronically (YC website), by mobile application, paper, or telephone. Direct reporting is also supported through some clinical systems such Mi Databank, which is used by UK Medicines Information and Advice Services.

Direct submission through clinical systems in Northern Ireland differs from the rest of the UK. MiDatabank reporting has been unavailable throughout 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 due to a long-term UK-wide system issue. The MHRA are aware of this issue and resolution has not been possible to date. An updated version of Mi Databank, MiDOnline is in development and is hoped to be available in 2026 which may help to resolve this issue.

Direct submission is available through some clinical systems used by GPs in other parts of the UK, but this functionality is not yet available in Northern Ireland.

In 2024/2025 as in the previous year, most reports from the Yellow Card Centre Northern Ireland region were submitted directly through the Yellow Card website with increased use of the mobile application, Table 13.

	<b>2024/2025 Number of reports</b>	<b>2023/2024 Number of reports</b>	<b>Percentage change on previous year (%)</b>
EYC (Yellow Card Website)	776	719	+7.9%
Yellow Card Mobile App (including COVID-19 App)	70	64	+9.4%
Paper	5	11	-54.5%
Mi Databank	2	3	-33.3%

Table 13 Northern Ireland Yellow Card reports by submission route, 2023/2024 and 2024/2025



### i. Discussion of Yellow Card data

In 2024/2025 a total of 832 Yellow Card (YC) reports of suspected adverse reactions to healthcare products originated from the YCC Northern Ireland region, an increase of 4.39% from the previous year. A notable rise in reporting was observed in quarter four, mirroring the pattern seen in 2023/2024. While it is too early to confirm a consistent trend, promotional activities such as Medication Safety Week at the end of quarter 3 may have influenced this increase. A comparable trend in reporting was also observed across all HSC geographical areas.

In addition to the rise in the total number of reports, the reporting rate per 100,000 population increased from 41.7 in 2023/2024 to 43.3 in 2024/2025. Together these figures indicate a clear upward trend in Yellow Card reporting from Northern Ireland.

There was a 38% increase in the number of suspected products reported. Due to the absence of data prior to 2023/2024, it is difficult to contextualise this figure or determine whether it represents a true increase. This rise may reflect improved understanding of the Yellow Card scheme and enhanced confidence in completing submissions, particularly following education and awareness sessions that include guidance on report completion. Alternatively, it may indicate a trend where reporters are listing all medicines taken as suspected, regardless of their likelihood of involvement.

In 2024/2025, public and patient groups accounted for about one-third of Yellow Card reports from Northern Ireland. Reports from healthcare professionals remained stable, with a slight 2% increase from 2023/2024. Pharmacy professionals were the most active, contributing 42% of all reports. Nursing professionals accounted for 9%, a 3.7% increase compared with the previous year. In contrast, submissions from medical, dental, and other allied health professionals declined, with allied health showing the largest decrease compared to 2023/2024.

The reasons for this decline are unclear, though it is unlikely to be due to changes in how reporters self-categorise. Four HSC Trusts in Northern Ireland implemented the Encompass system (single digital care record) during 2024/2025. Given the intensity and resource demands of this rollout, it is possible that this may have contributed to a temporary reduction in reporting activity. Despite this decrease in health professional reporting, it was encouraging to see reports from two new reporter groups- paramedics and school nurses- in 2024/2025.



Serious reports accounted for 50% of all Yellow Card submissions in 2024/2025, representing a 28% increase compared to 2023/2024. However, this percentage change should be considered with caution due to the limited number of comparable data points. Healthcare professionals continue to submit the majority of reports categorised as serious, although the proportion of their overall serious reports has decreased compared to the previous year.

There was also an increase in the number of reports with a fatal outcome. However, this percentage rise should also be considered with caution due to the small numbers of comparable data points.

Just over a quarter of Yellow Card reports did not include a patient age, mirroring the pattern observed in 2023/2024. In those that did, 21% involved patients aged 65 years and over. Compared to the previous year, there was a decrease in reports for younger patients aged seventeen and under, while reports for those in age groups between 18-34 years increased. Similar to 2023/2024 Yellow Card reporting showed a positive correlation between patient age and the number of reports received.

In 2024/2025, Glucagon-Like Peptide-1 (GLP-1) agonists, tirzepatide and semaglutide, emerge as the two most frequently reported suspected products. Together they account for 8% of all Yellow Card reports submitted in 2024/2025. Contrast agents and vaccines continue to be commonly reported, although the number of reports for these products decreased compared to 2023/2024. Amlodipine and atorvastatin remained in the top ten most reported products for the second consecutive year, with an increase in reports for both. In contrast to the previous year, antibiotics did not feature prominently among the most frequently reported suspected products in 2024/2025.

Please note that suspected products for 2024/2025 have not yet been grouped by therapeutic class. MHRA data supplied to YCC Northern Ireland does not classify suspect medicines by therapeutic class. This process was completed manually for 2023/2024, but due to current capacity constraints, it has not been possible to repeat this classification for 2024/2025 data.

For the first time, the annual report includes data on the most frequently reported adverse reactions. Among these, medication error ranked as the sixth most commonly reported reaction overall. It was also the most frequently reported adverse reaction in reports classified as serious. Reporters submitting a Yellow Card may



designate “medication error” as the reported reaction experienced. Further analysis is required to better understand the context to these reports.

Report submissions from Northern Ireland continue to be predominantly electronic (website and mobile application), with over 90% submitted via the Yellow Card website. The number of reports submitted through the Yellow Card mobile application demonstrated a 9% percentage increase compared to 2023/2024. While direct submission is supported by some clinical systems used by GPs in other parts of the UK, this functionality is not yet available in Northern Ireland.

#### e. Summary of other Yellow Card data

None received for 2024/2025

### 4. Promotional activities

A range of promotional, education, and awareness activities were undertaken throughout 2024/2025 to enhance understanding of the Yellow Card scheme and encourage reporting across both healthcare and public sectors.

#### a. Training delivered to healthcare professionals and their respective groups

Audience type	Session type	Duration (hours)	Number of Sessions	Total Audience Number	Total Hours training
Foundation Year Pharmacists (Regional Medicines Information training day)	Presentation	0.5	1	13	0.5
Specialist Nurse	Presentation	1	1	1	1
TMSNI MDT Yellow Card - ECHO session	Presentation	1.5	1	35	1.5



Audience type	Session type	Duration (hours)	Number of Sessions	Total Audience Number	Total Hours training
Health Professionals (Belfast HSC Trust – Safetember)	Presentation	0.75	1	5	0.75
Specialist Nurse	Presentation	0.75	1	1	0.75
Pharmacy Professionals (South West Acute hospital, Western HSC Trust)	Presentation	0.5	1	27	0.5
Foundation year Pharmacists (South West Acute hospital- Western HSC Trust)	Training workshop	0.5	1	2	0.5
Health care Professionals and Healthcare students	Presentation	0.75	1	30	0.75
Non- Medical Prescribing forum (Belfast HSC Trust)	Presentation	1	1	90	1
Foundation Year Pharmacists (Regional Medicines Information training day Belfast HSC Trust)	Presentation	0.5	1	18	0.5
Foundation Year Pharmacists (Daisy Hill Hospital, Southern HSC Trust)	Training workshop	0.5	1	2	0.5



Audience type	Session type	Duration (hours)	Number of Sessions	Total Audience Number	Total Hours training
Antimicrobial Stewardship working group (Belfast HSC Trust)	Presentation	0.5	1	8	0.5
Pharmacy Professionals (Belfast HSC Trust)	Presentation	0.5	1	8	0.5
Health Professionals (March to Safety- Belfast HSC Trust)	Presentation	0.75	1	8	0.75
Radiographers (Belfast HSC Trust)	Presentation	0.75	2	45	1.5
Health Professionals (March to Safety- Belfast HSC Trust)	Presentation	0.75	1	3	0.75
Nursing Professionals (Belfast HSC Trust)	Presentation	0.75	1	7	0.75
Recorded Webinar Views: Yellow Card reporting- Hosted by NICPLD	Presentation	1.5	-	12	18
Recorded Webinar views: Yellow Card reporting Hosted by Medicines NI.	Presentation	1.5	-	5	7.5



**b. Training delivered to patients and their respective groups**

Audience type	Session type	Duration (hours)	Number of sessions	Total audience numbers	Total Hours training
Health professionals and patient and public groups TMSNI ECHO project webinar	Presentation (Yellow Card awareness)	1.5	1	35	1.5
Patient Client Council board members	Presentation	0.5	1	7	0.5
Members of public and patients	Promotional Stand in HSC Trust	3.5	1	36	3.5
Patient- public involvement- Reader Panel Belfast HSC Trust	Workshop	1	1	8	1
School students Pharmacy school open day- Belfast HSC Trust	Workshop	1.5	1	10	1.5
Patient Client Council Practitioners	Presentation	1	1	6	1
School students Pharmacy school open day- Belfast HSC Trust	Workshop	0.5	1	8	0.5
Patient group Epilepsy Action family forum	Presentation	1	1	11	1

**c. Training delivered to undergraduates**

Audience type	Session type	Duration (hours)	Number of sessions	Total audience numbers	Total Hours training
-	-	-	-	-	-



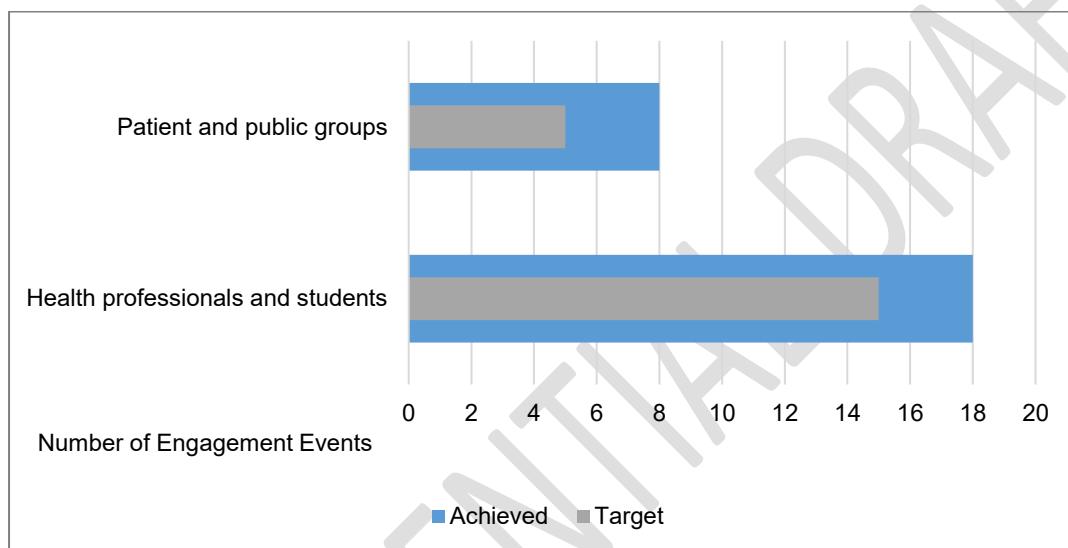
#### d. Promotional events

Audience type	Session type	Duration (hours)	Number of sessions	Total audience numbers	Total Hours training
<b>Medicines Safety Week-</b> Health professionals and Patient & Public groups	Promotional stand in HSC Trust	3.5	1	84 Interactions	3.5
<b>Medicines Safety Week-</b> Health professionals and Patient & Public groups	Promotional stand in HSC Trust	4	1	84 interactions	4
<b>Medicines Safety Week-</b> Health professionals and Patient & Public groups	Promotional stand in HSC Trust	3.5	1	52 interactions	3.5
Health professionals and Patient & Public groups	Promotional stand in HSC Trust	3.5	1	70 Interactions	3.5
Health professionals and Patient & Public groups	Promotional stand in HSC Trust	4	1	91 Interactions	4
Health professionals and Patient & Public groups	Promotional stand in HSC Trust	4	1	40 interactions	4
Health professionals and Patient & Public groups	Promotional stand in HSC Trust	4	1	77 interactions	4



### e. Progress against engagement objectives 1.2 and 2

The chart below illustrates YCC Northern Ireland's progress against the health professional and public and patient engagement objectives set by the MHRA, (see appendix A for full details). YCC Northern Ireland exceeded engagement targets in both categories delivering 160% of the target events for patient and public groups and 120% of target engagement events for health professionals and students.



### f. Lectures delivered (invited)

None during 2024/2025

### g. Materials developed for Yellow Card service promotion

Training materials were developed to deliver educational sessions about adverse reactions and the Yellow Card Scheme. A recorded webinar is available for pharmacists via the Northern Ireland Centre for Pharmacy Learning and Development (NICPLD) and multidisciplinary staff including GPs via Medicines NI platforms.



## **h. Publications**

### **Poster presentations**

Liggett Á, Kelly, S. (2024) Yellow Card Reporting in Northern Ireland. Poster presented at: All Island Medication Safety conference, Dublin, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

## **i. Documents uploaded to Citrix Share File or Teams Channels**

King, C. (2022) *Promotion of Yellow Card Reporting Services among Radiographers and Non-Medical Prescribers in the Belfast H&SC Trust and HSC Practice Based Pharmacists in Northern Ireland through the Regional Medicines and Poisons Information Service*. MSc thesis, Queen's University Belfast

## **j. YCC website**

### **i. Website updates**

The Yellow Card centre Northern Ireland website, hosted by Belfast HSC Trust, was launched in February 2025.

The site includes:

- Information about YCC Northern Ireland
- Guidance on what should be reported via the Yellow Card scheme and how to submit a report
- Links to Northern Ireland medication safety information from the Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG)
- Access to the YCC Northern Ireland annual report
- Links to external medical safety resources

### **ii. Number of website hits**

From February 2025 to October 2025 there have been 856 visits to the website with 'What to report' the most viewed section.



## 5. Research

Yellow Card centre Northern Ireland supported patient screening and invites for the MHRA Biobank pilot study for Direct Oral Anticoagulants, in collaboration with Belfast HSC Trust emergency department colleagues. A total of 341 patients were screened.

## 6. Conclusion

Yellow Card reporting from Northern Ireland continued to show an upward trend during 2024/2025. This highlights the impact of ongoing efforts to raise awareness of the scheme and promote participation among both healthcare professionals and the public. It is encouraging to see reports from patient and public groups continue to increase.

The decrease in the proportion of reports submitted by healthcare professionals whilst disappointing, warrants ongoing monitoring, and presents a challenge which can begin to be addressed in 2025/2026. Development of an inclusive network of Yellow Card champions will be a key goal for 2025/2026 to support healthcare professional engagement across all roles.

In 2025/2026 YCC Northern Ireland will:

- Actively promote YCC Northern Ireland website
- Identify and target low reporting groups
- Continue to increase awareness of the Yellow Card scheme among all healthcare professionals
- Engage with all healthcare professionals to scope interest and capacity to establish a network of Yellow Card Champions across Northern Ireland.
- Increase awareness of the Yellow Card scheme among the public through patient centred initiatives.
- Build on the current portfolio of educational and promotional material.
- Begin a MSc project evaluating nurse views on adverse reaction reporting and promoting nurse knowledge of the UK's spontaneous adverse reactions reporting system- The Yellow Card scheme in then Belfast Trust.



## Acknowledgements

Yellow Card Centre Northern Ireland wishes to recognise the contributions and support of the following colleagues and organisations in 2024/2025.

- Department of Health, Northern Ireland
- The MHRA, with special thanks to Phil Tregunno, Sarah Vaughan, and Louise Loughlin and their teams.
- Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG)
- Transforming Medication Safety in Northern Ireland (TMSNI) Programme
- Northern Ireland Centre for Pharmacy Learning and Development (NICPLD) and Medicines NI
- Medicines Information/Advice and Medicines Safety and colleagues
  - Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
  - Northern Health and Social Care Trust
  - Southern Health and Social Care Trust
  - South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust
  - Western Health and Social Care Trust
- UK Yellow Card Centre colleagues
  - Yellow Card Centre Northern and Yorkshire
  - Yellow Card Centre North West
  - Yellow Card Centre Scotland
  - Yellow Card Centre Wales
  - Yellow Card Centre West Midlands
- Communications colleagues
  - Department of Health and Strategic Planning and Performance Group
  - Belfast Health and Social Care Trust



## Appendix 1 – Progress report summary against objectives

General Objectives	Performance measures and targets	Progress at end of year
<b>1. <u>Education</u> – <i>To educate and inform stakeholders including healthcare professionals and patients about the Yellow Card scheme</i></b>	1.1. To develop and update on-going training programmes for students, including undergraduates and postgraduates, and all healthcare professional stakeholders, including GPs, community pharmacists, hospital pharmacists, hospital doctors and hospital nurses	Training presentations developed for healthcare professionals.
	1.2. To provide at least 15 lectures, workshops or other events per year, to educate students and healthcare professionals about medicinal products, ADRs, medications errors, pharmacovigilance and vigilance of medical devices, and the Yellow Card scheme	18 training events provided to healthcare professionals during 2024/2025
	1.3. To maintain regular contact and support local Medication and Medical Device Safety Officers (MSOs and MDSOs) and Patient Safety Specialists within YCC region to increase awareness levels of Yellow Card scheme and reporting rates	Ongoing
	1.4. To maintain and expand current network of stakeholders	Ongoing
<b>2. <u>Patient Reporting</u> – <i>To increase patient awareness of Yellow Card reporting and help drive an increase in patient reporting</i></b>	2.1. To engage with primary care settings e.g. community pharmacists and GPs to increase patient awareness of Yellow Card reporting	Ongoing
	2.2. To engage or make contact with five local patient groups per financial year, including giving presentations and talks	8 events during 2024/2025



General Objectives	Performance measures and targets	Progress at end of year
	2.3. To develop and maintain strategy programmes which can include talks, for sharing information such as Yellow Card Data, case studies and reporting trends with stakeholders including local patient groups, hospital pharmacists and GPs to promote patient awareness of patient Yellow Card reporting	Ongoing
<b>3. External / Stakeholder communications – To communicate information about the Yellow Card scheme to stakeholders</b>	3.1. To develop and maintain the YCC website, ensuring that they contain easily accessible information on the reporting of ADRs and adverse medical device incidents including Yellow Card data that is reportable	Completed
	3.2. To ensure that the YCC websites contain accessible links to agreed Yellow Card partners	Completed
	3.3. YCCs that wish to communicate information to stakeholders through educational material on their websites are to develop and update these training and resource materials accordingly on their websites, including promoting e-learning modules where e-learning modules are available	Ongoing
	3.4. YCCs to promote and disseminate safety messages from MHRA to YCC stakeholders as required, such as drug safety updates, vigilance issues and alerts for medicinal products including medical devices, and e-learning modules	Ongoing
	3.5. To monitor the number of hits on YCC websites	Ongoing
<b>4. Facilitation – To raise awareness and encourage facilitation</b>	4.1. Raise awareness of electronic reporting methods in primary and secondary care such as MiDatabank, SystmOne and the Yellow Card mobile application	Ongoing
	4.2. To identify potential local contacts for further development in this area	Ongoing



General Objectives	Performance measures and targets	Progress at end of year
<i>of direct Yellow Card reporting from healthcare systems</i>	4.3. To provide input to the MHRA on strategy and development of the Yellow Card scheme	Completed via quarterly meetings
<b>5. Internal communications –</b> <i>To communicate with the MHRA on a regular basis regarding Yellow Card Strategy and reporting from the YCC regions</i>	5.1. Annual report - YCCs to produce an annual report describing their activities over the past year. The report should be produced and sent to the MHRA within three months of receipt of annual Yellow Card Data from the MHRA	Completed
	5.2. Quarterly Teleconference - To participate in a quarterly teleconference between the YCCs and MHRA to discuss progress and share information	Completed via quarterly meetings
	5.3. Yellow Card Strategy – To provide views and input into the Yellow Card Strategy	Completed via quarterly meetings
	5.4. YCCs to provide further information and updates on research and education strategies	Completed via quarterly meetings
<b>6. Analysis –</b> <i>To analyse quarterly supply of Yellow Card Data and identify targets for improvement</i>	6.1. To identify local areas of low Yellow Card reporting by analysing Yellow Card quarterly data	Ongoing
	6.2. To promote the Yellow Card scheme with the intent of increasing reporting in these areas of low Yellow Card reporting	Ongoing
	6.3. To identify low reporting groups and engage with them to promote the Yellow Card scheme with the intent of increasing reporting	Ongoing
	6.4. To provide MHRA with updates on any other actions taken with the quarterly statistics	Ongoing



## Appendix 2-TMSNI Organisational Chart

