

Yellow Card Centre Northern Ireland Annual Report 2023/2024



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YELLOW CARD CENTRE, NORTHERN IRELAND

ANNUAL REPORT TO MHRA

Date: 01/04/2023 - 31/03/2024

1. Yellow Card Centre Team - Belfast Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust

Dr Mark Cross	Deputy Medical Director Risk and Governance Belfast HSC Trust Acute Medical Consultant Clinical Assessment Unit and Medicine Optimisation Lead Belfast HSC Trust Medical Lead for Yellow Card Centre Northern Ireland Co-Chair of Transforming Medication Safety Northern Ireland Advisory Group
Miss Paula King	Lead Pharmacist Northern Ireland Medicines and Poisons Advice Service
Mrs Áine Liggett	Lead Pharmacovigilance and Yellow Card Reporting, Medicines Advice Pharmacist
Mrs Siobhan Kelly	Lead Nurse Safety and Quality, Responsibility for Yellow Card Reporting

Medication Safety Oversight Board

The Yellow Card centre, hosted by Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, reports to the Medication Safety Oversight Board (MOB) which provides strategic oversight and ensures accountability for the delivery of the Transforming Medication Safety in Northern Ireland (TMSNI) programme. 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.



2. Executive summary

The launch of the sixth regional UK Yellow Card Centre for Northern Ireland by the MHRA and the Department of Health NI took place in Belfast on 17th September 2023. This fittingly coincided with World Patient Safety Day and its theme of "Engaging patients for patient safety", as Northern Ireland has historically had *"the lowest Yellow Card reporting of any UK region by health professionals and members of the public"* (MHRA November 2000).

Establishment of the Yellow Card Centre for Northern Ireland also aligned with several of the key commitments outlined in the Department of Health Northern Ireland strategic plan 'Transforming Medication Safety in Northern Ireland' TMSNI. One such commitment is to 'work with health and social care providers, patient groups, community, and voluntary organisations to raise public awareness of reporting medication issues, and support patients and carers to report any issues and concerns by addressing barriers to reporting'. The TMSNI implementation plan includes collaborative working with the Yellow Card Centre to further promote the Yellow Card scheme and to raise awareness of adverse reactions as a patient safety issue.

Since its launch in September 2023, the Yellow Card Centre Northern Ireland has focused on promoting the MHRA Yellow Card scheme through virtual training sessions, alongside a range of other promotional events.

To further highlight the launch event the team travelled over 300 miles with an autumn roadshow across HSC Trusts, achieving around 387 in-person interactions with healthcare staff, patients and members of the public. Northern Ireland community pharmacies and GP Practices were also supported by distribution of a Yellow Card Centre launch poster, aligned with the launch event.

Yellow Card awareness training has since been provided to 354 healthcare professionals (HCP). A total of 22 promotional events were held over the year, with some delivered over #MedSafetyWeek 6-12 November 2023.

The Yellow Card Centre has worked in the first year to foster a renewed culture of vigilance and proactive reporting, to contribute to improving patient safety across Northern Ireland.

Throughout 2023/2024 Yellow Card reports from Northern Ireland have shown an encouraging upward trend particularly over Q3 and Q4 following the Yellow Card Centre launch in September 2023.



3. Yellow Card data – Adverse Drug Reactions

Note on Data

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

Yellow Card reporters are encouraged to report both the medicine suspected of causing the adverse reaction and any other medicines that the person is taking at the time of report. Non-suspect medicines have been removed from the presented data.

Multiple reporters can independently report the same suspected adverse reaction and these duplicate reports are included in the total reporting numbers to give an accurate picture of reporting activity in Northern Ireland. Duplicate reports are removed from the data after further analysis, however no duplicate reports were identified on review of the Northern Ireland data for the year 2023/2024.

Suspect products

a. Total numbers

A total of 797 Yellow Card (YC) reports of suspected adverse reactions to healthcare products originated from the YCC Northern Ireland region in 2023/2024. This figure includes reports of suspected adverse reactions to COVID-19 vaccines and treatments.

Yellow Card reports increased significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic both in Northern Ireland and across the UK. At the start of the pandemic Yellow Card reports for suspected adverse effects of COVID-19 vaccines and treatments were managed through a dedicated platform. Since July 2022 Yellow Card reports for COVID-19 vaccines and treatments have been included within overall reporting numbers.

Comparisons with previous years of data are complicated by the impact of pandemic reporting levels and the availability of previous years of data in calendar year format only or as data including Yellow Card reports for COVID-19 vaccines and treatments

To provide a more accurate indication of reporting trends, COVID-19 reports for COVID-19 vaccines and treatments have been excluded. General Yellow Card reports i.e. non-COVID-19 reports were chosen as a comparator initially, to allow analysis against pre-pandemic reporting levels in Northern Ireland. Figure 1 below shows all Yellow Card reports from Northern Ireland during 2023/2024. Yellow Card



reporting demonstrated an upward trend during 2023/2024 with a notable increase in reporting in Q3.

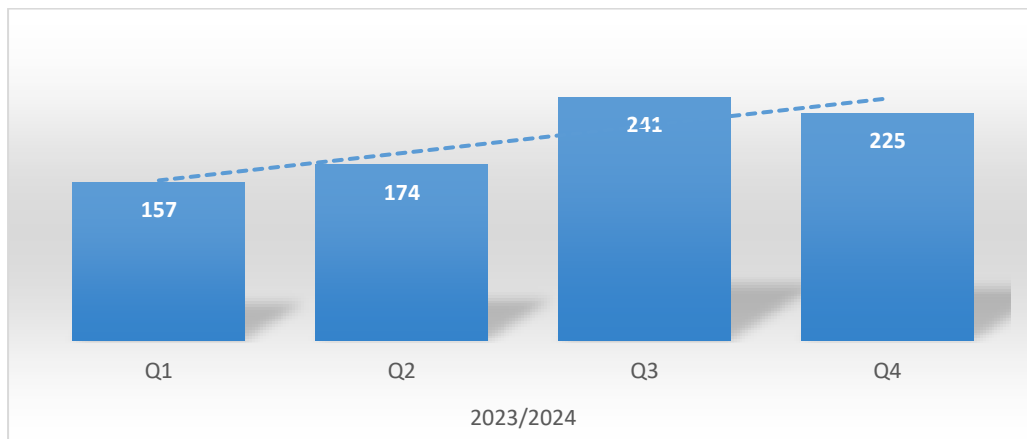


Figure 1 Number of all Yellow Card Reports submitted from Northern Ireland over 2023/2024

Table 1 below shows Yellow Card reports from Northern Ireland over the last five years. The current figure of 797 reports represents an increase of 32% when compared with 2022 non-COVID-19 reports. However this rise should be considered within the context mentioned above.

		Number of reports			Percentage change on previous year (%)*
Year		COVID-19	Non-COVID-19	Total	
2023/2024*	-	N/A	N/A	797*	+ 32%
2022/23	-	Unknown		935	-
2021/22	-	Unknown		4390	-
-	2022*	493	603*	1096	+ 125%
-	2021	5812	268	6080	-18%
-	2020	58	326	384	-

Table 1 Number of Yellow Card reports submitted from Northern Ireland over the last 5 years

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



MHRA information indicates that Northern Ireland's Yellow Card reporting rate has consistently remained below 40 per 100,000 population prior to 2023. The latest population estimate for Northern Ireland is approximately 1.9 million and the population has grown in recent years. The reporting rate for 2023/2024 is 41.7 reports per 100,000 population.

Yellow Card reports from each of the five Health and Social Care HSC geographical areas in Northern Ireland are shown in figures 2 and figure 3 below. During 2023/2024 there was a similar reporting trend across HSC geographies.

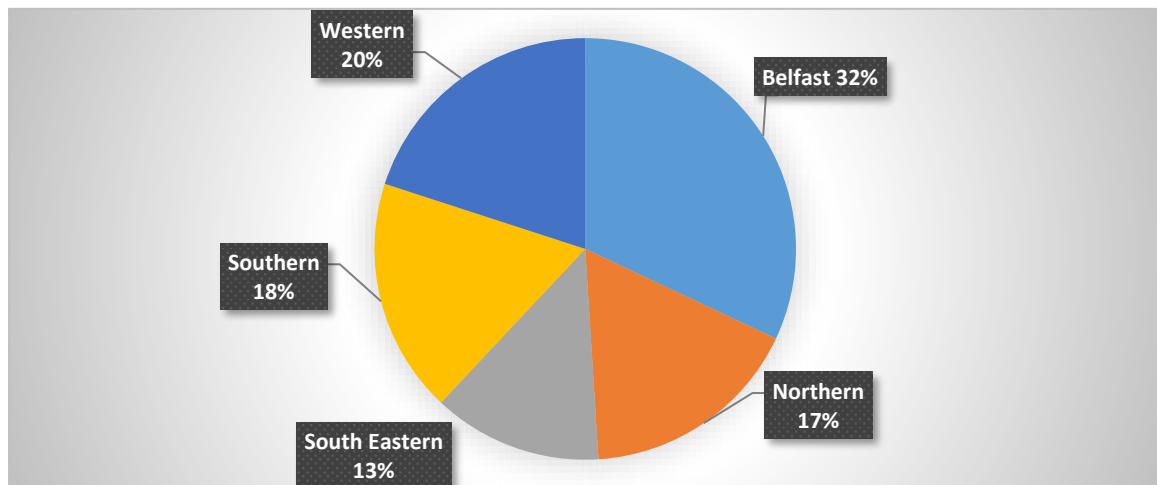


Figure 2 Percentage (%) of Yellow Card reports from each HSC geographical area 2023/2024

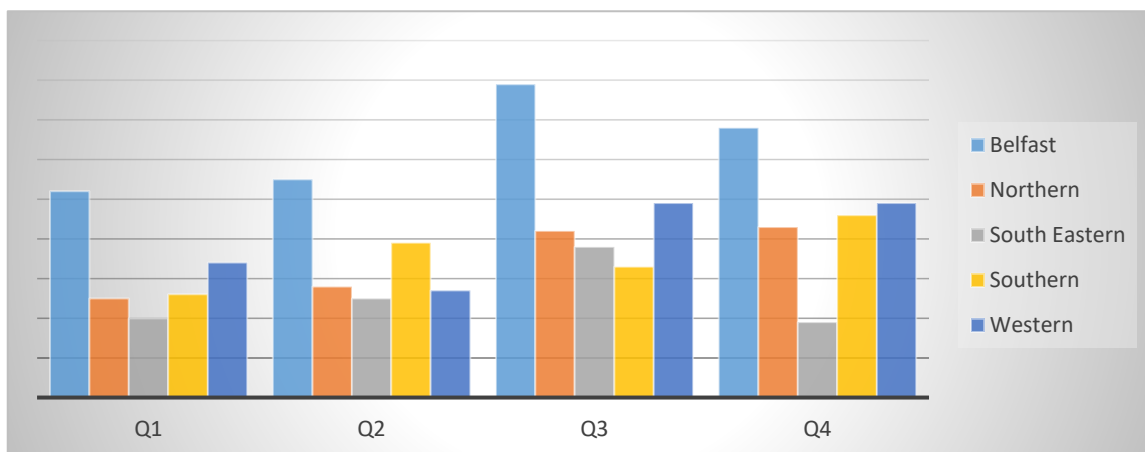


Figure 3 Breakdown of quarterly Yellow Card reports from HSC geographical areas in Northern Ireland 2023/2024



b. Reporter qualifications

In the 2023/2024 reporting period reports from patient and public groups made up 32% of Yellow Card submissions from Northern Ireland, with 68% of reports from healthcare professionals as shown below in figures 4 and 5.

Figure 6 illustrates the overall breakdown of Yellow Card reports from healthcare professionals and patients during 2023/2024.

The types of patient/ public reporters include: patients, parents, carers, consumers, and non-healthcare professionals.

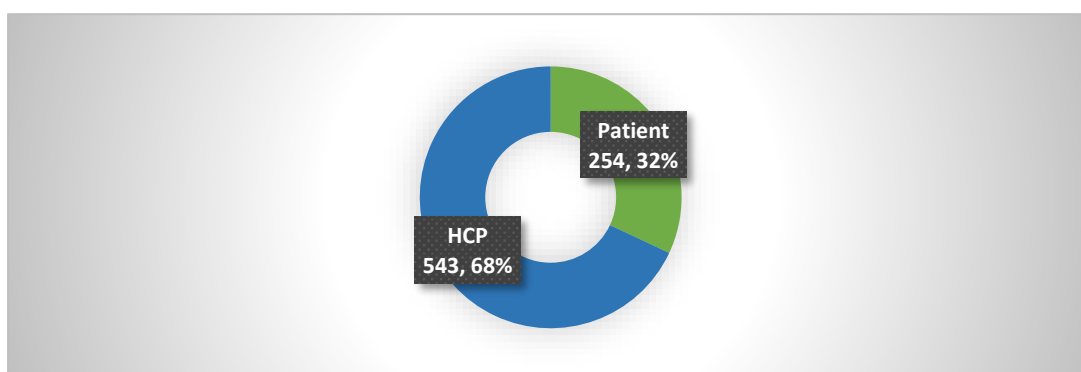


Figure 4 Yellow Card reports by reporter group during 2023/2024

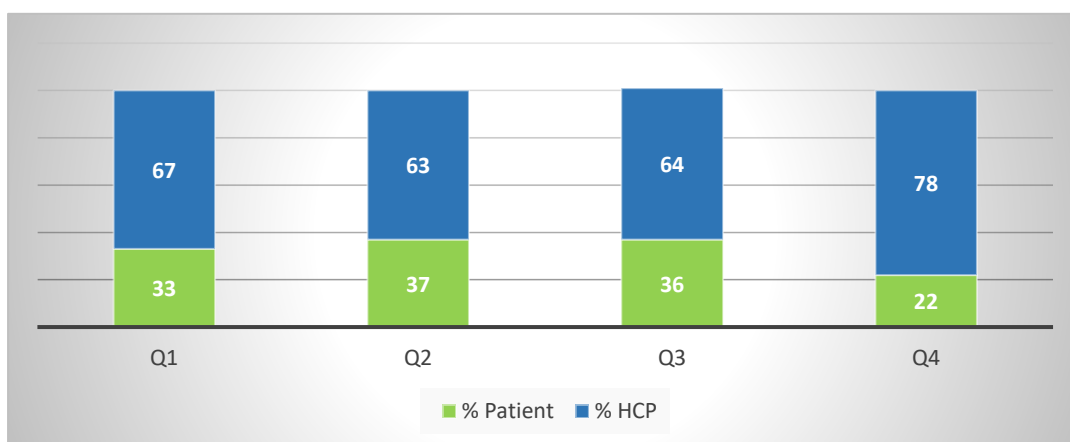


Figure 5 Yellow Card reports by reporter groups in each quarter 2023/2024

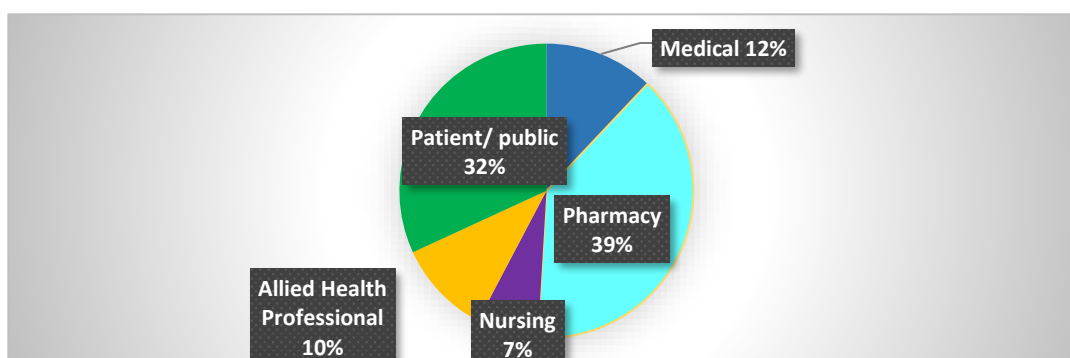


Figure 6 Breakdown of Yellow Card reports by reporter group during 2023/2024



Table 2 provides additional details of reporters for Northern Ireland Yellow Card reports.¹

Reporter	2023/2024	2022/2023	2021/2022
Patient	207	350	2798
Pharmacist	182	152	174
Hospital Pharmacist	71	59	67
Radiographer	63	51	36
Hospital doctor	51	62	126
Nurse	44	47	121
Pre-registration pharmacist (FTY)	36	38	<5
GP	34	30	198
Parent	32	40	365
Community pharmacist	19	12	22
Consumer or other non- health professional [†]	14	30	187
Other healthcare professional	10	19	81
Dentist	9	15	13
Hospital nurse	7	15	43
Optometrist	5	<5	<5
Healthcare assistant	3	<5	38
Midwife	3	<5	57
Pharmacy assistant	2	<5	>5
Hospital healthcare professional	2	<5	10
Physician	2	19	17
Carer	1	<5	20
Chiropodist	0	<5	<5
Coroner	0	<5	<5
Medical Student	0	<5	7

Table 2 Northern Ireland Yellow Card reports by reporter qualification in 2023/2024

¹ Limitation: It is not possible to present a detailed breakdown of non- COVID- 19 reports by reporter qualification for 2022/2023 and 2021/2022.



c. Serious reports

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

It is important to note that 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.

In the 2023/2024 period 351 reports were classed as serious, accounting for 44% of Yellow Card submissions from Northern Ireland, Table 3.

Reports from healthcare professionals accounted for 64% of Yellow Card reports classified as serious during 2023/2024, figure 7.²

	Number of serious reports	Percentage of total reports (%)	Percentage change on previous year (%)
2023/2024	351	44	-
2022/2023	606	-	-
2021/2022	3412	-	-

Table 3 Northern Ireland Yellow Card reports classified as serious in 2023/2024

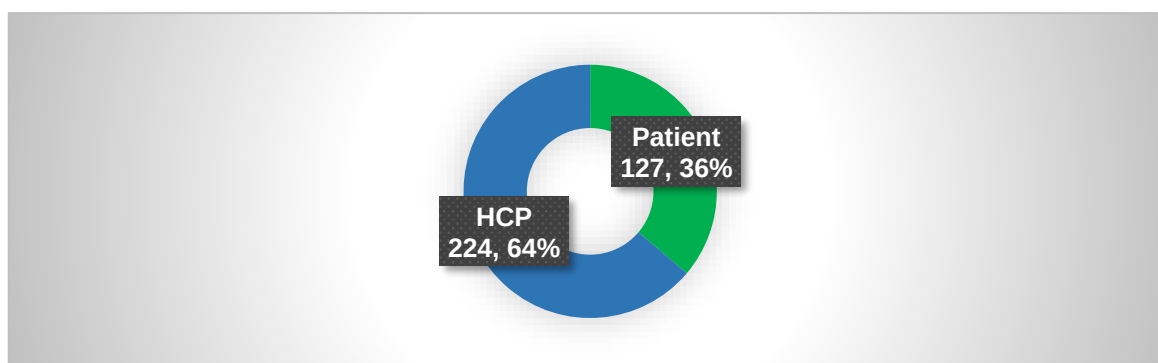


Figure 7 Serious Yellow Card reports by reporter type in 2023/2024

² Limitation: It is not possible to present a breakdown of non- COVID- 19 reports classified as serious for 2022/2023 and 2021/2022.



Fatal reports

Year	Number of Fatal reports	Percentage change on previous year (%)
2023/2024	1	-
2022/2023	15	-
2021/2022	30	-

Table 4 Northern Ireland Fatal Yellow Card reports 2023/2024

Yellow Card reports submitted from the Northern Ireland region where the outcome has been fatal are shown above in Table 4. It is important to note that 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.

d. Age breakdown

Figure 8 and Table 5 show the age breakdown by patient age for Yellow Card reports from Northern Ireland during 2023/2024. Just over a quarter of Yellow Card reports did not include a patient age but reports showed an upward trend with increasing patient age. Reports in patients aged 65 years of age and over accounted for just over 20% of all Yellow Cards submitted. Table 6 shows the breakdown by patient age from Yellow Card reports by HSC geographical area 2023/2024.

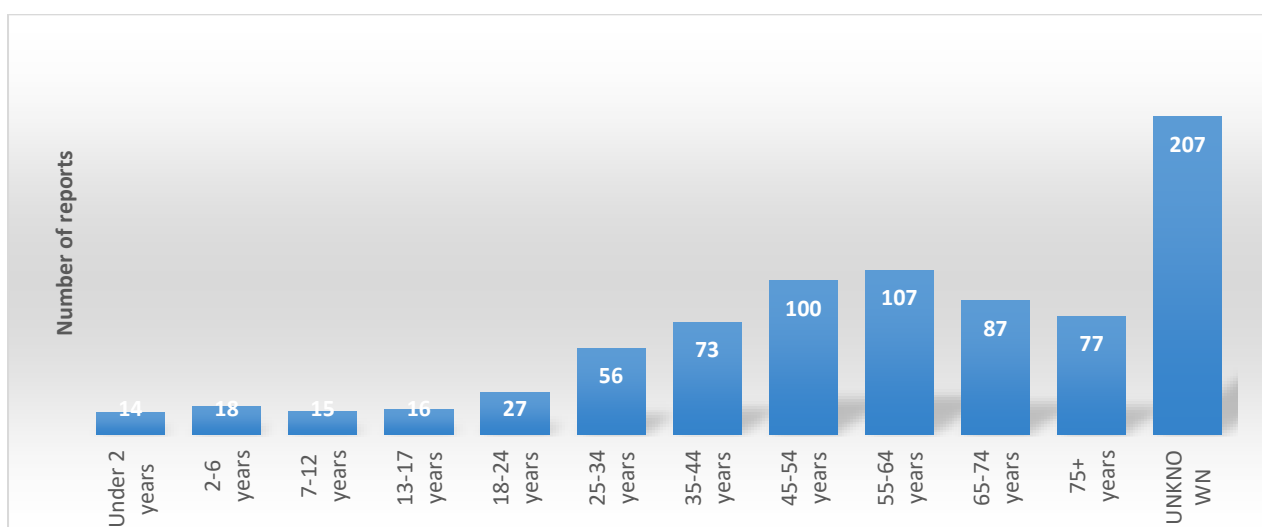


Figure 8 Yellow Card reports from Northern Ireland by age in 2023/2024



Age band (years)	2023/2024	
	Number of Reports	Percentage of reports (%)
Under 2 years	14	2
2-6 years	18	2
7-12 years	15	2
13-17 years	16	2
18-24 years	27	3
25-34 years	56	7
35-44 years	73	9
45-54 years	100	13
55-64 years	107	13
65-74 years	87	11
75+ years	77	10
Unknown	207	26

Table 5 Northern Ireland Yellow Card reports by age in 2023/24

Age band (years)	Belfast		Northern		South Eastern		Southern		Western	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Under 2 years	4	2	2	1	3	3	3	2	2	1
2-6 years	7	3	2	1	5	5	4	3	0	0
7-12 years	6	2	3	2	2	2	3	2	1	1
13-17 years	4	2	2	1	2	2	5	3	3	2
18-24 years	11	4	3	2	6	6	7	5	0	0
25-34 years	19	7	11	8	9	9	10	7	7	4
35-44 years	24	9	13	9	9	9	15	10	12	8
45-54 years	27	11	18	13	17	17	16	11	22	14
55-64 years	38	15	20	14	11	11	14	10	24	15
65-74 years	23	9	13	9	6	6	18	13	27	17
75+ years	15	6	10	7	11	11	20	14	21	13
Unknown	76	30	41	30	21	21	29	20	40	25

Table 6 Northern Ireland Yellow Card reports by age/HSC geographical area



e. Top 10 suspected medicines

Yellow Card reporters identify the medicines that they suspect may have caused an adverse reaction. Table 7 lists the 10 most frequently reported suspect medicines in Northern Ireland.

	Medicine	Number of Reports
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 7 Top 10 suspect medicines from Northern Ireland Yellow Card reports in 2023/2024



Table 8 and figure 9 highlight the medicinal classes most often reported in 2023/2024 excluding those with fewer than 5 Yellow Card reports.

Medicinal Class	Number of Reports	Percentage of Reports (%)
Vaccines	115	18
Antibiotics	99	15
Contrast agents	65	10
Antidepressants	42	6
Monoclonal antibodies	37	6
immunosuppressant	29	4
Statins	26	4
Calcium channel blockers	24	4
Antihistamines	15	2
Antiplatelet	13	2
Iron (parenteral)	12	2
Beta blockers	12	2
Anticoagulants	11	2
Progestogen	11	2
Antipsychotic (all generations)	11	2
Chemotherapy agents	11	2
Opioids	10	2
SGLT2 Inhibitors	10	2
Angiotensin Receptor Blockers	9	1
Proton Pump Inhibitors	9	1
Calcium supplements	9	1
GLP1 agonists	8	1
Anti-inflammatories	8	1
Thyroid hormones	7	1
Corticosteroid, inhaled	7	1
Antiepileptic	7	1
Acetylcholinesterase inhibitors	6	1
Oestrogen combined with progestogen	5	1
Xanthine oxidase inhibitors	5	1
Analgesic, non-opioid	5	1
Oestrogen	5	1
ACE inhibitors	5	1

Table 8 Northern Ireland Yellow Card reports by medicinal class in 2023/2024



f. Sources of reports

Yellow Card reports can be submitted electronically (website), by mobile app. or by paper, or telephone. Direct reporting is supported by some clinical systems such as the GP Vision system and Mi Databank (used by UK Medicines Information and Advice Services).

In 2023/2024 the majority of reports from the Yellow Card Centre Northern Ireland region were submitted through the Yellow Card website, Table 9.

Source of report	Number of reports 2023/2024	
	No	%
EYC (Yellow Card website)	719	90
Yellow Card mobile App	64	8
Paper	11	1
Clinical systems	3	<1

Table 9 Northern Ireland Yellow Card reports by submission route 2023/2024



4. Discussion of Yellow Card data

A total of 797 Yellow Card reports of suspected adverse reactions to healthcare products originated from the Yellow Card Centre (YCC) Northern Ireland region between 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2024. This figure includes reports of suspected adverse reactions to COVID-19 vaccines and treatments.

Yellow Card reports increased significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic both in Northern Ireland and across the UK. Comparing this year's data with previous years in Northern Ireland is challenging due to the impact of pandemic reporting levels and that past data is available in calendar years, rather than financial/business years, or includes COVID-19 reports.

To offer a more precise indication of reporting trends the general non-COVID-19 Yellow Card reports have been used as a benchmark, as they likely reflect pre-pandemic reporting levels more accurately. This method aligns with the approach adopted by other Yellow Card centres across the UK.

Traditionally, Yellow Card reporting in Northern Ireland has been significantly lower than in other regions of the UK. The 2023/2024 figure of 797 reports marks a 32% rise compared to non-COVID-19 Yellow Card reports from the calendar year 2022.

Another way to measure reporting levels is the number of reports per 100,000 population. In Northern Ireland this level has historically been below 40 reports per 100,000 population, dropping to less than 20 reports per 100,000 population in 2021. For 2023/2024 the current level is 41.7 reports per 100,000 population, indicating a small and encouraging increase in reporting levels.

The largest reporting HSC geographical area was the Belfast area, accounting for 32% of all Yellow Card reports submitted from Northern Ireland. The Belfast HSC geography is also the most populated HSC geographical area in Northern Ireland. All five HSC geographical areas demonstrated a similar trend in increased Yellow Card reporting during 2023/2024

In 2023/2024 healthcare professionals from various disciplines were the largest group of reporters, making up 68% of all Yellow Card reports submitted. Among them, pharmacists were the most active contributing 39% of the total reports. Medical staff contributed 12% of all reports. Also of note among health professional reporter groups were radiographers, who contributed 8% of all Yellow Card reports submitted from Northern Ireland during this period. Reports from nursing staff account for 7% of Yellow Card reports from Northern Ireland during 2023/2024. In secondary care, nurses prepare and administer most medicines and are in a unique



position to identify and report adverse reactions, identifying an opportunity to raise Yellow Card awareness.

Serious Yellow Card reports made up 44% of all submissions from Northern Ireland, suggesting that reporters are more inclined to submit a Yellow Card when they perceive the effect to be serious. Reports from healthcare professionals accounted for 65% of all serious reports.

Just over a quarter, 26% of Yellow Card reports did not include a patient age. Patients aged 17 years of age and under comprised 8% of all reports with the largest number of Yellow Card reports submitted for patients in the 45-54 years and 55-64 years age groups, each accounting for just under 13% of all reports, around 26% combined. Reports for patients aged 65 years and over made up just over 20% of the total. Overall, Yellow Card reports showed an upward trend with increasing patient age. Polypharmacy is more commonly seen in older adults. Published literature suggests that 17% of unplanned hospital admissions could be attributed to medicines related harm, with 70% of these in older people on multiple medicines (iSYMPATHY Report, 2023³).

COVID-19 vaccines were the most frequently reported suspect medicines in the Northern Ireland YCC region comprising nearly 8% of Yellow Card reports. Reports for vaccines accounted for 18% of all Yellow Cards submitted.

Among the top ten suspected medicines, four were antibiotics - ceftriaxone, doxycycline, clarithromycin and flucloxacillin, and three were vaccine products - COVID-19, influenza and MMR vaccines.

When categorised by medicinal class, three classes accounted for just over 40% of all Yellow Card reports: vaccines, antibiotics, contrast agents, antidepressants and monoclonal antibody products.

The majority of Yellow Card reports from Northern Ireland were submitted electronically through the Yellow Card website, making up 90% of all reports. Direct submission through clinical systems in Northern Ireland is different from the rest of the UK as only one GP system offered this function at the beginning of 2023/2024. Additionally, direct submission through MiDatabank has not been possible in 2023/2024 due to a long term UK-wide system fault and the MHRA were made aware of this.

³ Mair A, Kirke C, Scott M et al. iSYMPATHY Evaluation Report, 2023. Available at [Home - iSYMPATHY](#)



5. Promotional activities

a. Training delivered to healthcare professionals and their respective groups

Audience type	Session type	Duration (hours)	Number of sessions	Total audience numbers	Total hours training
FTY Pharmacists	Yellow Card Awareness	0.5	1	7	0.5
Specialist Nurse	Individual Yellow Card Awareness	1 x 1 1 x 0.5	2	3	1.5
MDT health professions	Yellow Card Awareness	1	1	19	1
MDT healthcare professionals	Yellow Card Awareness	0.75	3	10	2.25
HSC Trust sessions MDT healthcare professionals	Yellow Card Awareness	0.5	4	74	2
GPNI	Yellow Card Awareness & Reporting	0.25	1	35	0.25
NICPLD Webinars	Adverse reactions and Yellow Card Reporting	1.5	2	77	3



Medicines NI Webinars	Adverse reactions and Yellow Card Reporting				
MDT healthcare professionals		1.5	2	89	3
Webinar views			8	8	12

b. Training delivered to patients and their respective groups

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

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	Total hours training
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Healthcare professionals and Patients	YCC Northern Ireland launch	2	1	40	2
Healthcare professionals NICON conference	Promotional stand	4	2	40-50	-
Healthcare professionals	Promotional stands in HSC trusts	4	4	387 interactions	16

Progress against engagement objectives 1.2 and 2.2

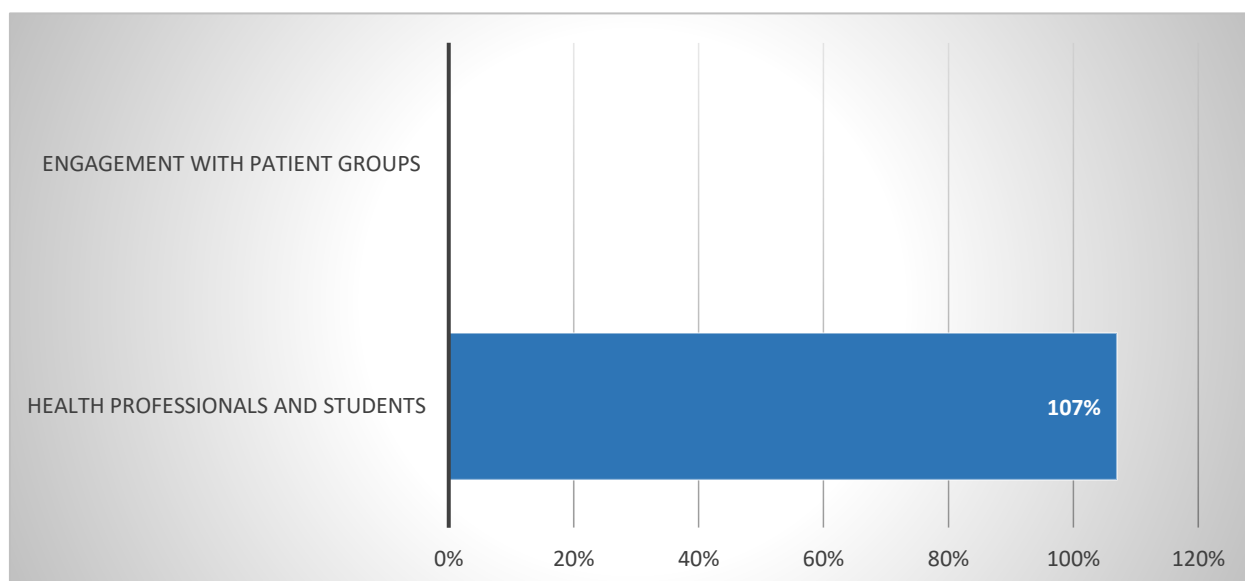


Figure 10 Graphical summary of progress against engagement objectives

e. Lectures delivered (invited)

None during 2023/2024



f. Materials developed for YCS promotion

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

6. Publications

Poster presentations

Liggett, A: King, P (2023) A Yellow Card Centre for Northern Ireland, Breaking New Ground. Poster presented at: All Ireland Pharmacy Conference, Dundalk, 6th - 7th November 2023.

7. Documents uploaded to Citrix Share File or Teams Channels:

None in 2023/2024

8. YCC website

A website for the Yellow Card Centre Northern Ireland is being progressed. A development proposal outlining the requirements and costs was under consideration in 2023/2024. Website development is in the 2024-2025 work plan.

9. Research

There was no research in 2023/2024. The initial focus following service launch was on raising awareness and ensuring delivery of education activities.



10. Conclusion

In 2023/2024 healthcare professionals and patients from Northern Ireland submitted 797 Yellow Cards. It is promising to see that throughout this period, particularly post Yellow Card Centre Northern Ireland launch, that Yellow Card reporting demonstrated an upward trend across Northern Ireland. While healthcare professionals contributed the majority of these reports, it is also encouraging to note that the proportion of reports from patient and public groups has remained consistent.

The first full operational year of the Yellow Card Centre Northern Ireland will be in 2024/2025. The strategy for 2024/2025 will be to:

- Identify and target low reporting groups
- Continue to increase awareness of the Yellow Card scheme among healthcare professionals
- Engage with 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



11 Acknowledgements

Yellow Card Centre Northern Ireland wishes to recognise the contributions and support of the following colleagues and organisations in 2023/2024

- Department of Health, Northern Ireland
- The MHRA with special thanks to Dr Alison Cave, Louise Loughlin, and Mitul Jadeja and their teams
- Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG)
- Transforming Medication Safety in Northern Ireland (TMSNI)
- Northern Ireland Centre for Pharmacy Learning and Development (NICPLD)
- GPNI
- Community Pharmacy NI
- Medicines Safety and Medicines Information/Advice 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
- 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
 - MHRA
 - Department of Health and Strategic Planning and Performance Group
 - Belfast Health and Social Care Trust



Appendix 1 – Progress report summary against objectives to be expanded as required by MHRA

General Objectives	Performance measures and targets	Progress at end of year
1. Education – <i>To educate and inform stakeholders including healthcare professionals and patients about the Yellow Card scheme</i>	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	16 training events provided to healthcare professionals during 2023/2024
	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
2. Patient Reporting – <i>To increase patient awareness of Yellow Card reporting and help drive</i>	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	Not achieved in 2023/2024.



an increase in patient reporting		Included as an objective for 2024/25
	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
3. External / Stakeholder communications – To communicate information about the Yellow Card scheme to stakeholders	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	In progress
	3.2. To ensure that the YCC websites contain accessible links to agreed Yellow Card partners	
	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	
	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	
	3.5. To monitor the number of hits on YCC websites	
4. Facilitation – To raise awareness and encourage facilitation of direct Yellow Card	4.1. Raise awareness of electronic reporting methods in primary and secondary care such as MiDatabank, SystemOne and the Yellow Card mobile application	Ongoing
	4.2. To identify potential local contacts for further development in this area	Ongoing



<i>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
5. <u>Internal communications</u> – <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
6. <u>Analysis</u> – <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

