

To: All Community Pharmacists in Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield

15<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Dear Colleagues

**Re: Local plans regarding the NHSE Guidance on medicines that should not be routinely prescribed in primary care**

Following a consultation by NHSE in July-October 2017, national guidance on 18 medicines which should no longer be routinely prescribed in primary care has been published to ensure people receive the safest and most effective treatment available, and save the NHS up to £141 million a year. You can see the guidance for these medicines at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/items-which-should-not-be-routinely-prescribed-in-primary-care-guidance-for-ccgs/>

The medicines included within this guidance are: Co-proxamol, Dosulepin, Doxazosin (MR), Fentanyl (immediate release), Glucosamine and Chondroitin, Herbal Therapy, Homeopathic Therapy, Lidocaine plasters, Liothyronine in primary Hypothyroidism, Lutein and Antioxidants, Omega 3 and other fish oils, Oxycodone and Naloxone prolonged release, Paracetamol and Tramadol combination product, Perindopril arginine, Rubefacients (excl. topical NSAIDs), Tadalafil once daily, Travel vaccines, Trimipramine.

This guidance is addressed to CCGs to support them to fulfil their duties around appropriate use of their resources. CCGs are expected to take the proposed guidance into account in formulating local policies, and for prescribers to reflect local policies in their prescribing practice. The guidance does not remove the clinical discretion of the prescriber in accordance with their professional duties.

Locally the CCGs and provider organisations in the South West Yorkshire Area Prescribing Committee have been working together to plan how to implement the new guidance for their patients. Some of the guidance can be implemented fairly quickly by GP Practices and you will start to see some changes in the next few months to existing patients' prescriptions for some of these medicines. Other changes will require clinicians to review and change patients' medication in a more gradual and planned way which may include getting input from specialists.

There are some materials available to support patients in understanding why these medicines are no longer routinely recommended which will be useful to you. Patient information leaflets can be found at <https://www.prescgipp.info/resources/category/414-items-which-should-not-routinely-be-prescribed-in-primary-care-patient-leaflets>

If you require any further information about local plans regarding the NHSE guidance please contact your local CCG medicines management team.

Kind regards

Yours faithfully

Dr Nigel Taylor  
Chair for the South West Yorkshire APC

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