

Ref PH449

To all Community Pharmacies in the Wessex area
(and copied to interested parties & Partner organisations for information)

Dear Colleague,

Prescribing of over the counter medicines is changing

This email is for your information and awareness; please note that the “Prescribing of over the counter medicines is changing”, Prescriptions will not generally be given for over the counter medicines for a range of minor health concerns. Instead, over the counter medicines will be promoted as available to buy in a pharmacy or supermarket in the local community, where the team of health professionals at a local pharmacy can offer help and clinical advice to manage minor health concerns and if symptoms suggest it’s more serious will be able ensure the patient(s) get the care they need.

Please support CCGs in their implementation of NHS England’s [guidance on conditions for which over the counter items should not routinely be prescribed in primary care](#), a series of [patient materials have been published](#).

For CCG’s to help promote awareness of this implementation.

For your information and reference the “**Over the counter medicines**” pack of patient materials being made available to CCG’s will include:

- Patient leaflet
- Easy read version of the leaflet
- A black and white handout for GPs and other prescribers to hand directly to patients during a consultation.

I attach copies of these documents for your information and interest, supplies of materials are not currently being sent direct to pharmacies.

Patients can find further information at - <https://www.nhs.uk/common-health-questions/medicines/why-cant-i-get-prescription-over-counter-medicine/>

Also see PSNC at <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhs-england-issues-final-otc-guidance-for-ccgs/>

Please support these changes and the CCG with their implementation, help the NHS to use resources sensibly, thank you for your co-operation and assistance.

Kind regards

Tim Perriment
Primary Care Commissioning Support Manager
NHS England, South Region Team (Wessex Local Office)
Oakley Road | Southampton | Hampshire | SO16 4GX

Telephone 0113 824 9851
Email tim.perriment@nhs.net