

Patient Information – Making the Wirral “£” go further

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group is responsible for the commissioning of health services on Wirral and is allocated a fixed amount to spend by NHS England. People are living longer and with more conditions such as diabetes. This growing demand for health services means that we need to review some services or policies to ensure they are based on good clinical evidence and represent value for money. Difficult times for funding in the NHS have called for difficult decisions to ensure we have a sustainable health service in the coming years.

The CCG has recently conducted a number of reviews on the services it commissions and these reviews were subject to formal consultations with stakeholder and the public before decisions were made by the CCG.

Part of this assessment has involved reviewing how some medications are prescribed by local GPs on Wirral. As a result, three new policies have been developed which are being adopted across the local healthcare system. In summary these policies mean:

- NHS Wirral CCG will not routinely fund the prescribing of medicines and treatments for minor, short term conditions where these medicines are readily available to buy over the counter in supermarkets and pharmacies (This includes simple pain killers such as paracetamol and ibuprofen).
- NHS Wirral CCG will only fund the limited prescribing of the following gluten free food for patients with coeliac disease: bread/loaves, bread mix, flour, flour mix crackers and pasta
- Procedures that are deemed to be of lower clinical priority based on clinical evidence will not be routinely funded although some patients may be suitable for an individual funding request

In addition to the introduction of the above policies NHS Wirral CCG will also be reviewing the way in which repeat medications are ordered via your local community pharmacy. This will help us to reduce unnecessary waste which is generated through prescriptions that are not needed. Patients who are included in this scheme will be required to order their regular medication through their GP practice and only order what they need

Further information is available from your GP practice or by visiting the NHS Wirral CCG website.