

Your Request:

1) When were Gluten free prescriptions first introduced in East Cheshire?

Our Response:

1) Gluten-free foods have been available on prescription for patients diagnosed with gluten sensitivity enteropathies who meet the criteria specified nationally within the Drug Tariff since the late 1960s, when the availability of Gluten-Free foods was limited.

Prior to a national consultation in 2017, a wide range of products were available to prescribe including both staple items (such as bread and flour) and other items (such as cakes and sweet biscuits).

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/678181/report_of_responses_-_gluten_free_food_prescribing_consultation.pdf

This guidance applied to NHS Eastern Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), and NHS South Cheshire CCG which together encompassed the area covered by Cheshire East Local Authority from their inception in 2013 until their inclusion in NHS Cheshire CCG on 1 April 2020 and subsequent re-organisation to become part of NHS Cheshire & Merseyside in July 2022.

This guidance also applied to the area covered by NHS Vale Royal CCG, which was part of the area covered by Cheshire West and Chester Local Authority and was incorporated into NHS Cheshire CCG on 1 April 2020 and then NHS Cheshire & Merseyside in July 2022.

Your Request:

2) When were Gluten Free prescriptions within East Cheshire last discussed or raised as an issue within the Clinical Commissioning Group?

3) Could these meeting minutes be shared from this last discussion?

Our Response:

2 - 3) Gluten Free prescriptions within the former NHS East Cheshire CCG area were last discussed on 27 February 2019. The Executive Prescribing Committee approved an updated Prescribing Commissioning Policy that supported the NHS England document "Prescribing Gluten-Free Foods in Primary Care: guidance for Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) available via the following link: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp->

<content/uploads/2018/11/prescribing-gluten-free-foods-primary-care-guidance-for-ccgs.pdf>

Your Request:

4) When were these decisions made to withdraw prescriptions for West Cheshire?

5) Could the meeting minutes be shared from this withdrawal decision meeting?

Our Response:

4 - 5) The decision to withdraw prescriptions for gluten free food for the former NHS West Cheshire CCG area was made on 20 September 2016, following an 8-week public consultation. NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does not hold any minutes from this. However, the rationale for this decision is described within the attached '*letter to practices re: gluten free*' sent out to GP Practices at the time.

Your Request:

6) Have gluten free food prescriptions been discussed since the withdrawal decision?

Our Response:

6) No.

Note: From 01 July 2022, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) were disestablished, and their statutory functions and responsibilities inherited by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB. It is the intention of NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB to review all Commissioning Policies across the Integrated Care System (ICS) footprint and have a unified common set of policies by 01 April 2023.

In the meantime, NHS Cheshire and Merseyside will continue to adopt and operate the CCG policies it has inherited at Place/borough level, which means that there will be no immediate change in commissioning policy for local people resident in those Places/boroughs from that which was already in place prior to 01 July 2022.

Enc: '*letter to practices re: gluten free*'



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