

Our Ref: 30317

30th September 2016

Telephone: [redacted]
E-mail: [redacted]

Dear Sir / Madam

Website: www.westcheshireccg.nhs.uk

Gluten Free Food

NHS West Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group is a membership organisation led by 35 GP practices, responsible for planning and buying healthcare services for the local population. We simply do not have enough money to continue to buy all the services we currently do in the same way as before. To address this we need to find ways of reducing costs in some areas in order to protect other essential services.

One of the areas that have been identified by the Clinical Commissioning Group is the prescribing of Gluten Free products which are provided to patients on prescription. These products – which include flour, bread, pasta, biscuits and pizza base mix – were added to the list of products available on prescription when they were not easily available to buy locally.

Today these products are more widely available from supermarkets and are sold to the public at prices that are considerably lower than the NHS is charged when bought for use on prescription. There are also many other alternative sources of carbohydrate that do not contain gluten, for example rice and potato.

The Clinical Commissioning Group has asked your GP practice to send you this letter because you currently receive Gluten Free food on prescription and, following an 8 week public consultation, it has decided to stop funding this from 1st October 2016. The full consultation report and a question and answer document explaining our decision further can be found on our website www.westcheshireccg.nhs.uk

Should you require more information about this, please contact our Patient Experience Team on [redacted] or email [redacted]

Yours sincerely

[redacted signature]

**Medical Director
NHS West Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group**

Chair: [redacted]

Chief Executive Officer: [redacted]