

14 July 2015

Agenda Item: X

## **REPORT OF THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF JOINT CITY AND COUNTY HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **MAXIMISING THE USE OF OUR NHS RESOURCES (GLUTEN FREE PRESCRIBING)**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To introduce proposed changes in prescribing for coeliac disease sufferers.

#### **Information and Advice**

2. The symptoms of coeliac disease vary from person to person and can range from very mild to severe. Symptoms of consuming gluten (a protein composite found in wheat) include diarrhea, stomach pains and lethargy. The reaction is not the same as an allergic reaction and does not cause anaphylactic shock. The symptoms may last from a few hours to a few days. Coeliac disease is known as a 'multi-system' disorder' – symptoms can affect any area of the body.
3. For around 50 years, coeliac disease sufferers have been able obtain gluten free products on prescription. Now that gluten free products are commonly available in supermarkets, the cost of prescribing - £27 million a year in England - has attracted some considerable attention, especially since a small loaf might cost as much as £3 on prescription.
4. [In Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County, plans are under consideration to end gluten free prescribing or to restrict prescribing to bread flour only, or even just flour.]
5. A presentation from Nottingham North and East Clinical Commissioning Group is attached as an appendix to this report. Hazel Buchanan, Director of Operations and Jonathan Bemrose, Director of Finance, Nottingham North and East CCG will attend to brief the committee and answer questions as necessary.]
6. Members will wish to particularly focus on how consultation with coeliac disease patients has been undertaken.
7. If Members consider that this change amounts to a substantial variation of service, the Joint Health Committee should determine if the change is in the interests of the local health service.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Joint City and County Health Scrutiny Committee:

- 1) Consider and comment on the information provided
- 2) Determine if the change is in the interests of the local health service, if it is a substantial variation of service

**Councillor Parry Tsimbiridis**

**Vice Chairman of Joint City and County Health Scrutiny Committee**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact: Martin Gately – 0115 9772826**

### **Background Papers**

Nil

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All