

HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
18 OCTOBER 2018
PRESCRIBING OF OVER THE COUNTER MEDICINES
REPORT OF HEAD OF LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To review implementation of changes to the prescribing of over the counter medicines.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to review the way in which NHS England guidance on prescribing of over the counter medicines is being implemented locally.

3 Background information

- 3.1 Earlier in the year, NHS England carried out a public consultation on reducing prescribing of over the counter medicines. Following the consultation NHS England issued guidance that prescriptions should not be issued for conditions that fall in the following categories:

- A condition that is self-limiting and does not require medical advice or treatment as it will clear up on its own; and/or
- A condition that is a minor illness and is suitable for self-care and treatment with items that can easily be purchased over the counter from a pharmacy.
- Vitamins, minerals and probiotics: these are classified as items of limited clinical effectiveness where there is a lack of robust evidence for clinical effectiveness.

Instead, patients should be directed to purchase over the counter medicines from a pharmacy or supermarket in their local community. General exceptions were included in the national guidance.

- 3.2 Attached is a paper from Nottingham City Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) outlining proposals for implementing this national guidance in Nottingham City. The papers include the Equality Impact Assessment that has been carried out and details of the engagement activity that has been undertaken in relation to this. Representatives of the CCG will be attending the meeting to speak to the Committee about this and answer questions.

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 Paper from Nottingham City Clinical Commissioning Group 'Self-care and Over the Counter Medicines' including Equality Impact Assessment and Engagement Report

5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

- 5.1 None

6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

- 6.1 NHS England 'Conditions for which over the counter items should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: guidance for CCGs' (March 2018)

7 Wards affected

- 7.1 All

8 Contact information

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