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Changes to Prescriptions for Specific Items

Dear Patient,

We are writing to inform you about a recent change to local prescribing guidance from the Integrated Care Board (ICB).

The ICB has reviewed a number of medicines and products that can be purchased over the counter or are considered low-priority for NHS prescribing. As a result, some items that may previously have been available on prescription will no longer be routinely prescribed in primary care.

What this means for you

If you request one of these items, your GP practice may advise you that it is no longer available on NHS prescription. This decision has been made by the ICB and applies to all GP practices in the area. It is not a practice-level decision

What you can do

Many of these items are available to buy from community pharmacies or supermarkets without a prescription. A pharmacist can also offer advice on suitable treatments and alternatives.

If the cost of purchasing medicines is a concern, you might be able to get help with health costs through the NHS Low Income Scheme (LIS). This is a national NHS support scheme based on income and savings, which can provide full or partial help with some NHS charges, including prescription costs.

You can find out more and apply online here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/help-with-health-costs/nhs-low-income-scheme-lis/>

You can also call 0300 330 1343 for support with the application process.

If you have concerns

If you would like to discuss your individual clinical needs, please contact the practice and we will be happy to review your situation.

For further information about local prescribing policies, you may also contact your Integrated Care Board (ICB) directly or visit the national NHS guidance on over-the-counter and low-priority items that should not routinely be prescribed at:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/policy-guidance-conditions-for-which-over-the-counter-items-should-not-be-routinely-prescribed-in-primary-care/>

We appreciate your understanding as we follow NHS guidance designed to make best use of NHS resources for all patients.

Kind regards,
Dr Rasib & Partners