

# ADVICE FOR PATIENTS

The following products are **not** available on prescription in Kirklees:

- Sunscreen for skin protection from UV radiation
- Cream for unwanted facial hair and other products that are mainly for cosmetic purposes
- Emollient (moisturiser) for minor skin conditions
- Camouflage products e.g. make-up for port wine stain birthmarks
- Multivitamins, where no specific deficiency has been identified
- Soya and thickened infant formula (baby milk)
- Infant formula (baby milk) for lactose intolerance.

## Why are these products not available on prescription?

NHS North Kirklees and NHS Greater Huddersfield Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) decided to stop providing these products on prescription because they offer limited health benefits or can be purchased at a relatively low cost in supermarkets and pharmacies.

In the case of infant formula (baby milk), products are available to purchase at a similar cost to regular formula.

Your local NHS spends over £1.1 million a year on widely-available, over-the-counter medicines like those listed above. By making the change we can spend this money on drugs and treatments that have much more impact on people's health.

## I am worried about the cost of products

Most of these products are available locally at a relatively low cost or at a similar cost to regular products.

## I use one of these products for a long-term condition, what does this mean for me?

Some people will continue to receive these products on prescription because they have a long-term health condition or have been prescribed products on the recommendation of a hospital specialist. Your GP will be able to provide further information if this applies to you.

## Where can I get advice on the best product to buy?

Your local community pharmacist will be able to advise you on the best product to meet your specific needs. Products are available from a range of sources including pharmacies and supermarkets.

You can also find general health advice on the NHS Choices website at: [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

**Expensive brands of medicine will not normally be prescribed if a suitable cheaper or 'generic' product is available.**

### **What is the difference between branded and generic medicines?**

All medicines have a generic name. They may also have one or more brand names chosen by the manufacturing company. Generic and branded medicines have the same active ingredients and the same clinical effect.

In the UK there are strict quality controls before a medicine can be prescribed so generic and branded versions of the same medicine will be of the same quality.

### **Why are branded medicines not available on prescription in Kirklees?**

NHS North Kirklees and NHS Greater Huddersfield CCGs decided to stop providing branded products on prescription because they have the same active ingredients and clinical effect as generic products but can be up to 56 times more expensive.

### **Why is the generic medicine a different colour or shape to my usual brand?**

The colour, size or shape of a medicine may change depending on which company makes it. However, the medicine will have the same clinical effect as your usual brand.

Check with your pharmacist or GP if you have any concerns about the use of a particular medicine.



## **If you want to talk to someone about local NHS prescribing, please contact:**

### **Patient Advice and Liaison Service**

NHS Greater Huddersfield CCG

Tel: 01484 464222

Email: [contactus@greaterhuddersfieldccg.nhs.uk](mailto:contactus@greaterhuddersfieldccg.nhs.uk)

Website: [www.greaterhuddersfieldccg.nhs.uk](http://www.greaterhuddersfieldccg.nhs.uk)

### **Patient Advice and Liaison Service**

NHS North Kirklees CCG

Tel: 01924 504975

Email: [PALS-NKCCG@northkirkleescg.nhs.uk](mailto:PALS-NKCCG@northkirkleescg.nhs.uk)

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