



Over the Counter
Medicines



Gluten-free
Foods



Baby Milks & Specialist
Infant Formula



Oral Nutritional
Supplements

New Prescribing Policies in Worcestershire

As of the 18th September there is now a restriction placed on access to certain medicines, treatments, products and food items on prescription.

These changes follow a decision made by the three Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Groups in July this year where they agreed to no longer support a number of different items, specifically:

- **To restrict the prescription of treatments and medicines for short-term, minor conditions**
- **To stop the prescription of all gluten-free foods**
- **To stop the prescription of soya milks, thickened infant formula, formula for lactose intolerance and all infant formula available as ready to use liquid**
- **To restrict the prescription of oral nutritional supplements.**

Those patients affected by the new commissioning policies will now be advised to purchase required products from a pharmacy, supermarket, health food store or online.

Mari Gay, Chief Operating Officer, said:

“We are very grateful to the many people who shared their views and gave feedback on the proposals.

After considering feedback from local people, national campaign groups and a review of clinical guidance we have decided to stop routinely funding certain medicines, treatments, products and food items on prescription. These items will be readily available in local supermarkets, pharmacies and health food stores.

We are aware of the concern this may cause some people and this has been a very difficult decision to make. However, given the financial challenge that we face in Worcestershire we need to take action now so that we can continue to protect other NHS services in the future.”

The decision was made in July this year following a 10 week public engagement exercise which ran from 17 March to 30 May last year and a five week public engagement exercise which ran from March until April earlier this year. In total more than 5,000 people provided their views during this time.

The results of the engagement exercise can be found on the CCG websites.

For more information around the changes in policy, please visit our website:
www.worcestershire.nhs.uk/prescribing/