

Specialist Infant Formula & Products Commissioning Policy

September 2017

This policy applies to patients for whom the following Clinical Commissioning Groups are responsible:

- NHS South Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- NHS Redditch & Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- NHS Wyre Forest Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

Collectively referred to as the Worcestershire CCGs

COMMISSIONING STATEMENT:

- The Worcestershire CCGs expect that where infant formula for reflux, lactose intolerance or soya alternatives are available to buy from a supermarket or online that parents/carers will purchase their own milks.
- The Worcestershire CCGs do not support the prescribing of products for colic.
- The Worcestershire CCGs expect prescribers not to prescribe ready to drink formula for pre-term infants unless there are specific clinical indications e.g. immunocompromised infants.
- This policy applies to:
 - All patients registered with Worcestershire GP or attending a healthcare appointment in Worcestershire.
 - All patients, whether or not they pay for their prescriptions. **Exemption from prescription charges does not exempt an individual from this policy.**
- Examples of products covered by this policy include Aptamil® anti-reflux, Cow & Gate® anti-reflux, Enfamil AR®, SMA Stay Down®, Infacol®, Colief®, Aptamil® Comfort, Cow & Gate® Comfort, SMA Comfort®, SMA LF®, Enfamil-o-Lac®, Wysoy®, Nutriprem 2 liquid®, SMA Gold Prem 2 liquid®.

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| Equality & Diversity Impact Assessment | |

Key individuals consulted in developing this document

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1. Definitions

- 1.1 Policy: A policy is a plan of action which is then applied as concrete programmes and actions. Policy documents will be prescriptive by nature and will detail expectations for the actions of individuals in a particular subject area, setting the parameters within which individuals will operate.

2. Scope of policy

- 2.1 This policy applies to all services contracted by or delivered by the NHS in Worcestershire including:
- GP practices
 - Out of hours and extended hours providers
 - Acute Hospitals
 - Outpatient clinics
 - NHS community providers
 - Independent providers
 - Community pharmacies
- 2.2 This policy applies to all prescribers within the contracted services; general practitioners, locum and junior doctors, trainees and community practitioners, supplementary and independent non-medical prescribers within Worcestershire.
- 2.3 This policy applies to:
- 2.3.1 All patients registered with or attending a healthcare appointment in Worcestershire.
 - 2.3.2 All patients, whether or not they pay for their prescriptions. **Exemption from prescription charges does not exempt an individual from this policy.**
- 2.3 Patients who are not eligible for treatment under this policy may be considered on an individual basis where their GP or consultant believes exceptional clinical circumstances exist that warrant deviation from the rule of this policy.
- 2.4 The policy should be read in conjunction with the Prescribing Guidelines for Specialist Infant Formula.

3. Introduction and Purpose

- 3.1 The purpose of this policy is to outline the specific recommendations for the prescribing of infant formula feeds in Worcestershire.
- 3.2 Worcestershire promotes breast feeding as the best form of nutrition for infants and this should be promoted, supported and protected wherever it is clinically safe to do so and the mother is in agreement.

4. Anti-reflux milks

- 4.1 Worcestershire CCGs expect that anti-reflux formulas should be purchased.
- 4.2 Anti-reflux formulas are available at a similar price to standard formula from pharmacies or supermarkets. NHS Choices website refers to these products as being available to purchase rather than via a prescription on the advice of a healthcare professional
- 4.3 Examples include Aptamil[®] anti-reflux, Cow & Gate[®] anti-reflux, Enfamil AR[®], SMA Stay Down[®]

5. Infant Colic

- 5.1 The prescribing of products for colic including Infacol[®], lactase enzyme drops (Colief[®]) and 'comfort' milks is not supported in Worcestershire.
- 5.2 Clinical Knowledge summaries do not recommend the use of these products because there is insufficient good quality evidence to support their use.
- 5.3 Examples of 'comfort' milks include Aptamil[®] Comfort, Cow & Gate[®] Comfort, SMA Comfort[®]

6. Lactose free formula

- 6.1 Worcestershire CCGs expect that lactose free formulas should be purchased.
- 6.2 Lactose free formulas are available at a similar price to standard formula from pharmacies or supermarkets. NHS Choices website refers to these products as being available to purchase rather than via a prescription.
- 6.3 Examples include SMA LF[®], Enfamil-o-Lac[®]

7. Soya Formula

- 7.1 The Department of Health advice is that soya formula should not routinely be used for patients with cow's milk protein allergy (CMPA) or lactose intolerance due to their high phyto-oestrogen content which could pose a risk to the long-term reproductive health of infants.
- 7.2 It should only be advised in patients over six months who do not tolerate first line EHF since there is a risk that infants with CMPA may also develop allergy to soya. It is more likely that children will tolerate soya formula from one year. Note that soya formula is advertised as suitable from birth.
- 7.3 Worcestershire CCGs expect that soya based formula should be purchased.
- 7.4 Soya based formulas are available at a similar price to standard formula from pharmacies or supermarkets. NHS Choices website refers to these products as being available to purchase rather than via a prescription on the advice of a healthcare professional.
- 7.5 Examples include Wysoy[®].

8. Ready to drink formula for pre-term infants

- 8.1 Worcestershire CCGs expect that ready to drink formula for pre-term infants is not prescribed unless there are specific clinical indications e.g. immunocompromised infant.
- 8.2 Examples include Nutriprem 2 liquid[®], SMA Gold Prem 2 liquid[®].

9. Equality Statement

- 9.1 All public bodies have a statutory duty under the Equality Act 2010 to set out arrangements to assess and consult on how their policies and functions impact on race equality. This obligation has been increased to include equality and human rights with regard to disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender reassignment and religion.
- 9.2 South Worcestershire, Redditch and Bromsgrove and Wyre Forest CCGs endeavour to challenge discrimination, promote equality, respect human rights, and aim to design and implement services, policies and measures that meet the diverse needs of our service, and population, ensuring that none are placed at a disadvantage over others.
- 9.3 All staff are expected to deliver services and provide care in a manner which respects the individuality of patients and their Carer's and as such treat them and members of the workforce respectfully, regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion/belief, disability and sexual orientation.
- 9.4 Providers and Commissioners are expected to use the appropriate interpreting, translating or preferred method of communication for those who have language and/or other communication needs. Practitioners will need to assess that prescribing practice is fair and equitable for all groups covered under the Equality Act 2010 and that they are implementing the Accessible Information Standard.

10. References

Prescqiipp Bulletin 146. Appropriate prescribing of specialist infant formulae (foods for special medical purposes) November 2016. <https://www.prescqiipp.info/infant-feeds/send/93-infant-feeds/3141-bulletin-146-infant-feeds>. Accessed on 17/8/17

Department of Health CMO's Update 37.

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11. Equality Impact Assessment

An Equality Impact and Risk Assessment has been completed for this project. Please click on the following icon for the document



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