

Changes to prescribing in Worcestershire

The Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in Worcestershire who are responsible for healthcare investment have been tasked with identifying areas where health care can be made more cost effective.

One of these areas is the prescribing of medicines. A review of prescribing within the Worcestershire CCGs has highlighted some areas where cost savings could be made with no impact on the quality of patient care.

These cost savings can be achieved in several ways including:

- Switching from a branded medicine to a generic version of the same medicine, this is the equivalent of buying a supermarket own brand product
- Switching brands of the same medication
- Switching to a different medication that has the same effect
- Continuing on the same medication but switching to a different device, for example switching inhaler.

In all cases where a change in medication is considered appropriate by the CCG there is supporting evidence to show that the change in prescribing will not affect the quality of patient care.

The NHS belongs to everybody and therefore together we must ensure that its resources are used in the best possible way for all patients. Your GP practice is a member of the Worcestershire CCGs who have consulted with the public on the best use of healthcare resources; this has resulted in the introduction of new prescribing policies. This will ensure we can continue to protect NHS services for the population of Worcestershire in the future.

Produced on behalf of:

NHS Redditch and Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group
NHS South Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group
NHS Wyre Forest Clinical Commissioning Group