

Gluten Free Commissioning Policy

August 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 do not fund the prescribing of gluten free food.
- This policy applies to:
 - All prescribers within the Worcestershire CCGs area, including non-medical prescribers, GPs, out-of-hours and A&E departments
 - All patients registered with a Worcestershire GP or attending a healthcare appointment in Worcestershire.
 - All patients, whether or not they pay for their prescriptions.

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Document Details:

Version:	1.0
Ratified by (name and date of Committee):	3 CCGs Clinical Executive Committees in Common 8 th August
Date issued:	August 2017
Internal Review Date:	Documents will be reviewed as a minimum every 3 years. However, earlier revisions to the policy may be made in light of published updates to local and national evidence of effectiveness and cost effectiveness, recommendations and guidelines from local, national and international clinical professional bodies or local prioritisation requirements. Date to Initiate Review: July 2020
Lead Executive/Director:	Mari Gay
Name of originator/author:	Anne Kingham, Primary Care Medicines Commissioning Lead
Target audience:	Patients, GPs, Secondary Care and Primary Care (Community) Providers, Independent Sector Providers
Distribution:	GPs, Secondary Care and Primary Care (Community) Providers, Independent Sector Providers, CCG Internet Pages
Equality & Diversity Impact Assessment	

Key individuals consulted in developing this document

Name	Designation
CCG Governing Body Members	
CCG Medicines Commissioning Team	
Worcestershire Local Medical Committee	

Version Control:

Version No	Type of Change	Date	Description of change

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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
 - Out patient clinics
 - NHS community providers
 - Independent providers
 - Community pharmacy
- 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.

3. Background

- 3.1 Worcestershire CCGs currently spend approximately £290k annually on the prescribing of gluten free (GF) food.
- 3.2 Coeliac disease is a common digestive condition where a person has an adverse reaction to gluten. Eating foods containing gluten can trigger a range of symptoms, such as:
- Diarrhoea, which may smell particularly unpleasant
 - Bloating and flatulence (passing wind)
 - Abdominal pain
 - Weight loss
 - Feeling tired all the time as a result of malnutrition (not getting enough nutrients from food)
 - Children not growing at the expected rate.
- 3.3 GF foods are available in supermarkets with a wide variety of choice. Alternatively coeliac patients can alter their diet to replace bread with naturally gluten-free foods e.g. rice, potato. GF food is expensive when obtained via NHS prescription because of clinician time and dispensing costs including out of pocket expenses (e.g. special delivery charges).

4. Equality Statement

- 4.1 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.

- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 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.

5. Equality Impact Assessment

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



EIRA STAGE 2 gluten
free v2.docx