

25 May 2023

Stakeholder briefing – for information only

Reviewing our commissioning policies in West Yorkshire

Commissioning policies are agreements about how we plan and pay for health and care services, including prescriptions and treatments. They contain information about how we spend our money and what is paid for by the NHS. Currently, there are some differences in the commissioning policies across West Yorkshire.

The [NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board](#) (ICB) is reviewing its commissioning policies to identify these differences. This work, often called ‘harmonisation’ or ‘standardisation’ is important because we must have West Yorkshire policies, rather than different local policies. This will help us make sure that people have the same access to treatments paid for by the NHS, wherever they live in West Yorkshire.

The review has looked at a number of commissioning policies. Many of these policies were already the same for all West Yorkshire places which are Bradford District and Craven, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield District. There are five policies where there are differences across West Yorkshire that need to be made the same.

One of the policies where there are differences is the prescribing of gluten-free products for people with coeliac disease and people with other gluten-sensitive conditions. This does not include prescribing for [phenylketonuria \(PKU\)](#) which is a separate policy.

Gluten-free prescribing policy

The NHS began funding gluten-free products for people with coeliac disease and people with other gluten-sensitive conditions in the late 1960s when availability of gluten-free products was

very limited. Once a wide variety of gluten-free products became available in supermarkets, many areas in England stopped providing them on prescription.

Gluten-free prescribing was stopped in Bradford District and Craven in 2016, and in Kirklees and Wakefield District in 2017. However, in Calderdale and Leeds limited gluten-free products are currently still prescribed.

The ICB recommendation is to stop gluten-free prescribing in Calderdale and Leeds to bring them in line with other areas in West Yorkshire.

Public involvement

The first stage of involvement, which starts on 25 May 2023, is aimed at people in Calderdale and Leeds who will be directly impacted by the recommendation. Around 200 people in Calderdale, and around 700 people in Leeds currently receive a prescription for gluten-free products.

Local ICB NHS engagement leads in Calderdale and Leeds are working with their primary care colleagues to contact this group of people via a letter, text or email with a link to the survey: [Reviewing our Gluten-free \(GF\) prescribing policy](#) which will be open until midnight on Wednesday 21 June 2023. The survey includes equality monitoring questions to help us understand how stopping gluten-free prescribing would affect equality groups. It is available in print or alternative formats on request.

In July 2023, wider involvement on the policies being reviewed will take place. At this stage we will invite all our stakeholders to share their views on the recommendation. At the end of this second stage of involvement, a report will be written to outline what the public and our wider stakeholders have told us. The [ICB Transformation Committee](#) will make a decision on the recommendation to stop gluten-free prescribing at its meeting in September 2023. All the feedback from both stages of involvement will be shared with the committee before that meeting and will be used to support its decision.

Further information

Further details and links to the surveys and supporting documents are available on the website here: [Treatments paid for by the NHS](#).

If you have any questions, please email the ICB at: Westyorkshire.ICS@nhs.net