


Non-Executive Report of the: [Health Scrutiny Subcommittee] 05/10/2017	
Report of:] Tower Hamlets CCG	
[Low Value Medicines Consultation]	

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Summary

[This paper summarises the consultation run by NHS England (NHSE) and NHS Clinical Commissioners as part of a plan to develop new guidance on prescribing. It is hoped this guidance could help the NHS save money, while continuing to deliver the best possible outcomes for patients. There is an NHSE requirement that the consultation is discussed at the local overview and scrutiny committee.

The new guidance could mean items that are often routinely prescribed could only be provided where they are absolutely necessary and deemed to be 'clinically effective' with the aim to produce a clear and equal prescribing process across the country and make savings which would be reinvested in patient care.

A list of 18 items considered to be low priority for NHS funding has been produced as part of the consultation. This list, along with full details of the consultation, is available on the [NHS England website](#). In addition the consultation is asking for views on the routine prescribing of some over the counter (OTC) medicines used for minor ailments or self-limiting illness.

NHSE would like to hear from health professionals, the public and patients and relevant interest groups. **The consultation is open until 21 October 2017.**

Effect on Tower Hamlets Clinical Commissioning Group (THCCG):

- THCCG has full year costs of £636,172 on the affected items but this would not be realised as a potential saving as patients may require alternative medicines to be prescribed
- THCCG has prescribing which falls within the TOP 50% of CCGs for 7 of the 18 items being covered by the consultation.
- There is prescribing guidance in place already managing the costs of some of the affected items which is already and continuing to reduce the prescribing of these medicines.
- Currently THCCG has not undertaken any work on proposals or guidance to reduce the routine prescribing of over the counter (OTC) medicines used for minor ailments or self-limiting illness.

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Recommendations:

The Health Scrutiny Sub Committee is recommended to:

1. [Read the [consultation](#) in line with NHSE requirement for consultation to be discussed at a local overview and scrutiny committee.
2. Respond as an organisation if conclude there is a need to via the online survey available at <https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/consultation/items-routinely-prescribed/> or written responses can be sent to england.medicines@nhs.net before 21st October 2017.
3. Encourage affected local patients and public to respond to the consultation
4. Encourage local healthcare professional colleagues and/or local partnership patient/public organisations to respond either individually or as local organisations to the consultation
5. Follow the public media releases from THCCG and share widely

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