



## **Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

**Friday 11 November 2016**

#### **NHS in Croydon seeks views on prescribing changes**

NHS Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is calling out for local people to have their say on a proposal to reduce the prescribing of gluten-free foods, vitamin D for maintenance, baby milk and self-care medications.

Prescribing in Croydon eats up £42.8 million each year, 9% of the local £465 million health budget. The CCG was placed in special measures in July this year, and needs to save a further £5.7 million savings on top of existing plans to save £12.7 million this year. In total this is just under 4% of the CCG's total commissioning budget of £475.4 million for 2016/17.

By reducing prescribing of gluten-free foods, vitamin D, baby milk and self-care medications, Croydon CCG say they will make savings of up to £600,000 each year which means they will be able to reduce their deficit, helping to secure the future of health services in the borough. Some groups of people with particular conditions would be exempt from these changes, and the CCG states that the products they intend to stop prescribing are now widely-available at a reasonably low cost both online and in local shops. One of the questions the CCG is asking local people is to what extent the local NHS should prescribe items that can be bought more cheaply directly by the patient.

Dr Tony Brzezicki, Clinical Chair of NHS Croydon CCG said:

“Increasing demands on NHS services means that we cannot provide everything we want for the people of Croydon. We have to prioritise and make tough decisions to secure the future of local health services for everyone.

“Our proposals to stop prescribing a number of products will not affect everybody. We want to work to make sure local people with the greatest need would not be affected by these changes.

“We need to make sure that we understand and consider the views and needs of the people who use local services, and we will be working with local community and voluntary groups over the coming weeks to make sure we have canvassed a range of views.”

Croydon CCG is keen to hear from local people and the engagement period will run from today, Friday 11 November 2016 to Friday 6 January 2017. A public meeting to discuss these proposals will be held at 6pm to 8pm on Tuesday 13 December 2016, and you can register at [www.croydonccg.nhs.uk](http://www.croydonccg.nhs.uk).

NHS Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group will consider the feedback from local people at a meeting in public of their Governing Body in early 2017.

To read the proposals and to have your say please go to [www.croydonccg.nhs.uk](http://www.croydonccg.nhs.uk)

- ends -

Information for editors:

For more information about these proposals, please contact:

**Stephanie Kendrick**  
Senior Associate – Communications  
**South East CSU**

**E:** [stephanie.kendrick@nhs.net](mailto:stephanie.kendrick@nhs.net)

**T:** 07919 014 399