

6th February 2017

Dear Croydon resident,

We are writing to inform you that Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has agreed to stop funding gluten free food products on prescription. Therefore from 28th February 2017 onwards your GP practice will no longer be routinely prescribing gluten free foods. This applies whether you normally receive gluten free foods free of charge or if you pay for your prescriptions.

The decision was taken by CCG Governing Body on 17th January 2017 and follows a recent period of public engagement on proposed changes to prescribing in Croydon.

Croydon CCG is under significant financial pressure due to increasing demand for services and rising costs. We must live within our means and focus our resources on the greatest health needs of our population to make sure we can secure the best possible health outcomes for local people. We have had to make some tough decisions and reduce our spending in some areas of our health budget and in some cases stop funding altogether.

The following documents have been enclosed to support you in finding alternative ways of sourcing your gluten free food:

- Patient information leaflet containing more information on the changes to gluten free prescribing in Croydon
- Information sheet on where to obtain the gluten free foods that are currently available on prescription
- Coeliac UK leaflet on maintaining a gluten free diet whilst on a budget.

If you feel you need more support, please contact the CCG Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 0800 456 1517 (Monday to Friday 9am-5pm) or email SLCSU.Complaints@nhs.net and they will direct your query to the most appropriate person. There is also a wealth of resources available to coeliac sufferers on the Coeliac UK website to support with managing a gluten-free diet.

<https://www.coeliac.org.uk/gluten-free-diet-and-lifestyle/gf-diet/>

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Anthony Brzezicki
Chair

Paula Swann
Chief Officer