

13<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Dear Croydon resident,

This letter is to inform you that Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has agreed to stop the routine funding of Vitamin D supplements on prescription. Vitamin D supplements are readily available at low cost in pharmacies, health food stores and most supermarkets. Following advice issued by Public Health England in July 2016, the use of Vitamin D supplements to protect and maintain bone, teeth and muscle health is now considered to be a personal responsibility.

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

As a result of this decision, from 1st April 2017 onwards, your GP practice will no longer issue prescriptions for routine Vitamin D supplements for adults. This applies whether you normally receive prescriptions free of charge or if you pay for your prescriptions.

Vitamin D historically has been prescribed for one of two main reasons:

1. To **treat** a clinically significant shortage of Vitamin D within the body (known as Vitamin D deficiency). This treatment consists of a short course of high dose Vitamin D. **This prescribing of high dose Vitamin D treatment courses to treat Vitamin D deficiency, once diagnosed, will continue to be supported by the CCG.**

or

2. As a **supplement** to maintain normal Vitamin D levels in patients known to be at high risk of Vitamin D deficiency or in patients who have previously completed a treatment course of high dose Vitamin D in the past for Vitamin Deficiency. **It is this use as a supplement which will no longer routinely be funded on the NHS 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 in order to reduce our spending in some areas of our health budget and in some cases stop funding altogether.

A patient information leaflet that outlines more information regarding advice on Vitamin D supplements, individuals who are at higher risk of Vitamin D deficiency and where you can obtain vitamin D supplements has been enclosed with this letter. This leaflet will indicate a strength of Vitamin D that is suitable for your needs.

Public Health England has now advised Healthcare professionals not to carry out routine testing of peoples' Vitamin D levels, unless they have specific clinical reasons or concerns, even if you have received a treatment course. Therefore the best way to ensure you have adequate levels of Vitamin D all year round is to consider the use of supplements.

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](mailto:SLCSU.Complaints@nhs.net) and they will direct your query to the most appropriate person.

There is also a wealth of resources available for the public regarding the new national advice on Vitamin D supplementation on NHS Choices at <http://www.nhs.uk/news/2016/07/July/Pages/The-new-guidelines-on-vitamin-D-what-you-need-to-know.aspx>

Yours Sincerely

**Dr Anthony Brzezicki**  
Chair

**Paula Swann**  
Chief Officer