



19 October 2018

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DECISION NOTICE

Dear Requester

**FOI Reference Number: 18708**

I refer to your email of 27 September requesting information in respect of self-limiting or other otherwise short term conditions.

I can confirm on behalf of Great Yarmouth and Waveney, North Norfolk, South Norfolk, Norwich and West Norfolk CCGs and in accordance with S.1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) that we do hold the information that you have requested. A response to each element of your request is detailed below:

1. Have you implemented NHS England's [guidance on minor, self-limiting or other otherwise short-term conditions for which over-the-counter items should not routinely be prescribed](#)? **The CCGs have implemented this.**
2. The guidance recommends that vulnerable patients are exempt from the restrictions. Under the list of general exception scenarios, the guidelines include "*individual patients where the clinician considers that their ability to self-manage is compromised as a consequence of medical, mental health or significant social vulnerability to the extent that their health and/or wellbeing could be adversely affected, if reliant on self-care. To note that being exempt from paying a prescription charge does not automatically warrant an exception to the guidance. Consideration should also be given to safeguarding issues.*"  
  
If the guidance has been implemented, have you taken steps to ensure vulnerable patients are exempt from the restrictions? **Guidance issued to GPs.**
3. Do you currently commission a community pharmacy minor ailments scheme? If so, what is the annual funding level for the scheme? **The CCG currently does not.**
4. Have you commissioned a community pharmacy minor ailments scheme in any of the last three years? **The CCGs have not.**

**Additionally please note that currently a paper is with the Joint Strategic Commissioning Committee (JSCC) seeking ratification of the guidance the CCGs are issuing GPs i.e. practical local interpretation of guidance. Also JSCC has previously ratified adoption of the NHS England guidance as policy.**

I hope that this answers your queries with the information we currently hold, but if I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to

Arden & GEM CSU  
FOI Team, Room 18  
Scarsdale  
Newbold Road  
Chesterfield  
S41 7PF

Email [agcus.foi.norfolkwaveneyccgs@nhs.net](mailto:agcus.foi.norfolkwaveneyccgs@nhs.net)

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided the CCG.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF, telephone 0303 123 1113, email [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

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Yours faithfully

Philip Humphreys

**FOI Manager, Arden & GEM CSU**

**On behalf of  
Great Yarmouth and Waveney,  
North Norfolk, South Norfolk  
Norwich and West Norfolk CCGs**