

Advice for patients



Wakefield
Clinical Commissioning Group

The following products are not available on prescription in Wakefield from 1st May

- Sunscreen for skin protection from UV radiation
- Cream for unwanted facial hair and other products that are mainly for cosmetic purposes
- Emollient (moisturiser) for minor skin conditions
- Camouflage products e.g. make-up for port wine stain birthmarks
- Multivitamins, where no specific deficiency has been identified
- Soya and thickened infant formula (baby milk) (with effect from 1st July)
- Infant formula (baby milk) for lactose intolerance (with effect from 1st July)

Why are these products not available on prescription?

NHS Wakefield CCG decided to stop providing these products on prescription because they offer limited health benefits, are low clinical priority, or can be purchased at a relatively low cost in supermarkets and pharmacies.

In the case of infant formula (baby milk), products are available to purchase at a similar cost to regular formula; for those who use milk tokens, these can be exchanged for the formula for lactose intolerance. Please note that specialist infant formulae for cows milk protein allergies (CMPA) and premature babies will continue to be available on prescription.

Your local NHS spends over £1.1 million a year on widely-available, over-the-counter medicines like those listed above. By making the change we can spend this money on drugs and treatments that have much more impact on people's health.

I am worried about the cost of products

Most of these products are available locally at a relatively low cost or at a similar cost to regular products.

Where can I get advice on the best product to buy?

Your local community pharmacist will be able to advise you on the best product to meet your specific needs. Products are available from a range of sources including pharmacies and supermarkets. You can also find general health advice on the NHS Choices website at: www.nhs.uk



Expensive brands of medicine will not normally be prescribed if a suitable less expensive or 'generic' product is available.

What is the difference between branded and generic medicines?

All medicines have a generic name. They may also have one or more brand names chosen by the manufacturing company. Generic and branded medicines have the same active ingredients and the same clinical effect.

In the UK there are strict quality controls before a medicine can be prescribed so generic and branded versions of the same medicine will be of the same quality.

Why are more expensive branded medicines not available on prescription in Wakefield?

We have decided to stop providing these branded products on prescription because they have the same active ingredients and clinical effect as generic products but can be up to 56 times more expensive.

Why is the generic medicine a different colour or shape to my usual brand?

The colour, size or shape of a medicine may change depending on which company makes it. However, the medicine will have the same clinical effect as your usual brand.

Check with your community pharmacist if you have any concerns about the use of a particular medicine.



Should you have any questions or comments about these changes, please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS): Telephone: 0800 0525 270 (Mon – Fri: 8.30am to 4.30pm)
E-mail: EMBED.PALS@nhs.net

