Our Ref:51840

17 October 2018

southseftonccg.foi@nhs.net

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Please find below the response to your recent Freedom of Information request regarding over the counter items within NHS South Sefton CCG.

Request/Response:

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?

    Yes

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?

    Yes NHS South Sefton CCG clearly states the importance of considering the vulnerability of patients individual circumstances when choosing to prescribe/ recommend self-care or not.

    In addition we have a CCG commissioned minor ailment scheme to support vulnerable patients where patients who are entitled to free prescriptions can access advice and treatment free of charge. Our leaflets about the guidance includes information about our minor ailment scheme.

3. Do you currently commission a community pharmacy minor ailments scheme? If so, what is the annual funding level for the scheme?

    Yes – Budget for 2018/19 £92,286

Chair: Dr Andrew Mimnagh
Chief Officer: Fiona Taylor

4. Have you commissioned a community pharmacy minor ailments scheme in any of the last three years?

   Yes