

Position statement on the prescribing of Co-proxamol

Following the NHS England guidance 'Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: Guidance for CCGs (version 2, June 2019) the following changes to prescribing have been agreed across Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge.

**From 17th September 2019
Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge Clinical
Commissioning Groups (BHR CCGs) no longer supports the
prescribing of Co-proxamol**

Decision

- The decision to stop Co-proxamol applies to ALL patients across Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge. BHR CCGs have agreed NO exceptions to this recommendation

This decision was made because:

- Co-proxamol was a pain-killer which was previously licensed in the UK until being fully withdrawn from the market in 2007 due to safety concerns. All use in the UK is now on an unlicensed basis. Since 1985 advice aimed at the reduction of co-proxamol toxicity and fatal overdose has been provided, but this was not effective and resulted in withdrawal of Co-proxamol by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). Since the withdrawal, further safety concerns have been raised which have resulted in Co-proxamol being withdrawn in other countries.
- BHR CCGs have a duty to spend taxpayer's money wisely, to make sure they get the best value possible – especially when NHS funding is being severely squeezed and more patients are being seen with more complex health issues than ever before

Reference:

NHS England and NHS Improvement. Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: Guidance for CCGs. Version 2, June 2019. Publishing approval reference 000608 <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/items-which-should-not-be-routinely-prescribed-in-primary-care-guidance-for-ccgs/>

MHRA Drug Safety Update November 2007. Co-proxamol withdrawal: reminder to prescribers <https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/co-proxamol-withdrawal-reminder-to-prescribers>

MHRA Drug Safety Update January 2011. Dextropropoxyphene: new studies confirm cardiac risks <https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/-dextro-propoxyphene-new-studies-confirm-cardiac-risks>

PrescQIPP Bulletin 194: Co-proxamol <https://www.prescqipp.info/our-resources/bulletins/bulletin-194-co-proxamol/>