

## **Position statement on the prescribing of eye vitamin supplements**

Following the local Spending NHS Money Wisely public consultation, the Governing Bodies of the BHR CCGs met in common on 29th June 2017 to agree changes to prescribing across Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge.

**From 10th July 2017  
Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge Clinical Commissioning  
Groups (BHR CCGs) no longer supports the prescribing of eye vitamin  
supplements**

### **Decision**

- The decision to stop the prescribing of eye vitamin supplements applies to ALL patients across Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge. BHR CCGs have agreed NO exceptions to this recommendation
- Eye vitamin supplements include Icaps, Viteyes Original, Viteyes Original Formula Plus Lutein, Occuvite Complete capsules, Preservision Original and Preservision Lutein capsules (this list is not exhaustive)

### **This decision was made because:**

- Current evidence is limited on the potential benefits of eye vitamin supplements
- There are a number of different supplements available in the UK, which claim to support good eye health. Many are unlicensed and have therefore, not undergone regulatory assessment. BHR CCGs therefore do not deem it appropriate for such preparations to be funded on the NHS
- If people want to continue taking eye vitamin supplements, they are widely available to purchase at reasonable cost at supermarkets, pharmacies and other retailers
- 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