

## **Position statement on the prescribing for skin rashes**

Following the local Spending NHS Money Wisely public consultation, the Governing Bodies of the BHR CCGs met in common on 14th December 2017 to agree changes to prescribing across Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge.

**From 8th January 2018  
Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge Clinical  
Commissioning Groups (BHR CCGs) no longer supports the  
prescribing for mild skin rashes**

### **Decision**

- The decision to stop prescribing over the counter (OTC) medicines used to treat mild skin rashes applies to ALL patients across Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge, where the below listed exceptions do not apply
- These products include alphosyl shampoo 2 in 1, calamine aqueous cream, calamine lotion, drapolene cream, capasal shampoo, acriflex cream, germolene (not an exhaustive list)

### **Exceptions**

BHR CCGs have agreed exceptions to this recommendation, where they accept that prescribing should continue. Prescriptions may be considered in the following circumstances:

- For moderate to severe skin rashes e.g. psoriasis
- Skin rashes that require the use of a prescription only medicine including steroid creams

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

- BHR CCGs believe treatments for OTC medications to treat mild skin rashes should be bought from a supermarket or pharmacy. These medicines can often be purchased cheaper than the NHS would pay via a prescription
- GPs still have the ability to prescribe for patients when the exceptions apply
- 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