

Position statement on prescribing for suncreams

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
prescribing of suncreams.**

Decision

- The decision to stop prescribing for suncreams/screens/blocks applies to ALL patients across Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge, where the below listed exceptions do not apply

Exceptions

- BHR CCGs have agreed exceptions to this recommendation, where they accept that prescribing should continue. These include:
 - Patients that need screening from direct sunlight due to skin cancer and/or protection from UV radiation in proven abnormal cutaneous photosensitivity (Photodermatoses) as advised by a dermatology specialist

This decision was made because:

- BHR CCGs have agreed to enforce the current NHS restriction for prescribing of sunscreens on the NHS (restrictions set by Advisory Committee on Borderline Substances)
- BHR CCGs believe patients who do not fit the agreed exception should purchase suncreams from a suitable retailer
- Suncreams can often be purchased cheaper than the NHS would pay via a prescription
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- 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