Prescribing Commissioning Policy  
August 2018

Policy for Conditions for which over the counter items should not routinely be prescribed in primary care

NHS Eastern Cheshire CCG, NHS South Cheshire CCG and NHS Vale Royal CCG have agreed to adopt the national NHS England guidance for Conditions for which over the counter items should not routinely be prescribed in primary care, for use in their locality in place of the 2016 policy to reduce general practice consultations and prescriptions for minor conditions suitable for self care:  

Recommendations are made to address the three categories of included over the counter items as follows:

1) those of limited clinical effectiveness:  
the item should not be routinely prescribed in primary care due to limited evidence of clinical effectiveness.

2) those used to treat self-limiting conditions:  
a prescription for treatment of a condition should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is self-limiting and will clear up on its own without the need for treatment.

3) those used to treat minor conditions suitable for self care:  
a prescription for treatment of a condition should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is appropriate for self-care.

In the above three scenarios patients should be encouraged to self care in the first instance, offered appropriate advice and be directed to purchase the items from pharmacies and other retailers.

1.0 Background

1.1 As part of the Medicines Value Programme, NHS England in conjunction with NHS Clinical Commissioners, has issued CCG guidance on conditions for which over the counter items should not be routinely prescribed in primary care (March 2018):  

1.2 This CCG policy aims to adopt the National recommendations made in the NHS England NHS Clinical Commissioners guidance document in place of the CCG’s 2016 local commissioning policy to reduce general practice consultations and prescriptions for minor conditions suitable for self care.

2.0 Conditions for which over the counter items should not routinely be prescribed in primary care

2.1 NHS England has identified over £569 million being spent on prescriptions for treatments, which could otherwise be purchased over the counter (OTC) from a pharmacy and other locations. Collectively across the 3 CCGs the last 12 months prescribing data shows that £5,036,688 has been spent on such items.

Such treatments include:

a) Items of limited clinical effectiveness

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Aoroved by EPC on 8th August 2018. Updated with minor amendment 12th December 2018  
For review July 2020  
 Based on the Staffordshire CCG’s Policy for conditions for which over the counter items should not routinely be prescribed in primary care v.1.8 Final.
such as probiotics, vitamins and minerals.
or are intended for treating the symptoms of:

b) **Self-Limiting Conditions**  
which do not generally require treatment as they will resolve of their own accord such as an acute
sore throat or infrequent cold sore of the lip

c) **Minor Conditions Suitable for Self-Care**  
which do not normally require medical advice and can be managed by purchasing over the counter
(OTC) items directly often at a much lower cost than that which would be incurred by the NHS if the
items were to be prescribed.

2.2 For each condition (or item), the guidance states one of the following recommendations:

- That the item should not be routinely prescribed in primary care due to limited evidence of clinical
effectiveness
- That a prescription for treatment of a condition should not routinely be offered in primary care as
the condition is self-limiting and will clear up on its own without the need for treatment.
- That a prescription for treatment of a condition should not routinely be offered in primary care as
the condition is appropriate for self-care.

2.3 The aim of the guidance is that by reducing spend on treating conditions that are self-limiting or which
lend themselves to self-care, or on items for which there is little evidence of clinical effectiveness, these
resources can be used for other priority areas that have greater impact for patients, support
improvements in services and deliver long-term sustainability of the NHS.

2.4 Research shows that in many cases, people can take care of their minor conditions if they are provided
with the right information, thereby releasing health professionals to focus on patients who have more
complex or serious health needs.

3.0 Consultation

3.1 At the time of the launch of our local self care policy in 2016, a 12 week engagement programme with
our local population was conducted, which showed overwhelming support for our policy. As the
conditions contained within the National policy differ only marginally from our local policy (for example
in the addition of conditions such as dandruff, hyperhidrosis, warts and verrucae etc.) the CCGs
consider it reasonable to rely on the NHSE consultation findings (which follow similar themes to local

4.0 Policy implementation and review

4.1 Under this policy, the CCGs advise that clinicians follow the recommendations for each condition or
item (Appendix 2) with due regard to general exceptions (Appendix 1).
4.2 General exceptions do not apply to vitamins, minerals, probiotics and those self-limiting conditions where there is limited evidence of clinical effectiveness for the treatments used (e.g. OTC items for coughs and colds).

4.3 It should be noted that the National policy to be adopted is guidance intended for primary care prescribers. The final decision to prescribe will remain with the prescriber. Practices have been provided with a template letter plus FAQ document that can be shared with patients. Support will be offered via CCG complaints procedures. There may be the odd circumstance, where the clinician feels that the condition/item falls outside general or specific exceptions and they consider it appropriate to prescribe. General Medical Council guidance requires doctors to take into account available resources and give due regard to agreed policy and guidance when making decisions to access to treatment. For further info. Please see: [https://www.gmc-uk.org/guidance/ethical_guidance/11837.asp](https://www.gmc-uk.org/guidance/ethical_guidance/11837.asp).

4.4 General Medical Council guidance also states that “in providing clinical care you must provide effective treatments based on the best available evidence” and that activities such as ‘advising patients on the purchase of over the counter medicines and other remedies’ and ‘providing written information to patients’ fall under the definition of ‘prescribing’. For further detail please see: [https://www.gmc-uk.org/-/media/documents/prescribing_guidance.pdf_59055247.pdf](https://www.gmc-uk.org/-/media/documents/prescribing_guidance.pdf_59055247.pdf)

4.5 There is national expectation that further conditions/items will be added to Appendix 2 over time.

4.6 The CCG policy will be reviewed if:

- There is new relevant national guidance
- Periodically as required

5.0 Equality and Quality Impact Assessment

5.1 CCG Equality and Quality Impact Assessments were conducted in 2016 when the local policy was launched. NHS England also conducted their own assessments which are available at: [https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/conditions-for-which-over-the-counter-items-should-not-be-routinely-prescribed-in-primary-care-equality-and-health-inequalities-full-analysis-form/](https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/conditions-for-which-over-the-counter-items-should-not-be-routinely-prescribed-in-primary-care-equality-and-health-inequalities-full-analysis-form/)
Appendix 1- General Exceptions to the Guidance

There are certain scenarios where patients should continue to have their treatments prescribed and these are outlined below:

- Patients prescribed an OTC treatment for a long term condition (e.g. regular pain relief for chronic arthritis or treatments for inflammatory bowel disease).

- For the treatment of more complex forms of minor illnesses (e.g. severe migraines that are unresponsive to over the counter medicines).

- For those patients that have symptoms that suggest the condition is not minor (i.e. those with red flag symptoms for example indigestion accompanied by intense pain.)

- Treatment for complex patients (e.g. immunosuppressed patients).

- Patients on prescription only treatments.

- Patients prescribed OTC products to treat an adverse effect or symptom of a more complex illness and/or prescription only medications should continue to have these products prescribed on the NHS.

- Circumstances where the product licence doesn’t allow the product to be sold over the counter to certain groups of patients. This may vary by medicine, but could include babies, children and/or women who are pregnant or breast-feeding. Community Pharmacists will be aware of what these are and can advise accordingly.

- Patients with a minor condition suitable for self-care that has not responded sufficiently to treatment with an OTC product.

- Patients where the clinician considers that the presenting symptom is due to a condition that would not be considered a minor condition.

- Circumstances where the prescriber believes that in their clinical judgement, exceptional circumstances exist that warrant deviation from the recommendation to self-care.

- 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.
Appendix 2:
Conditions for which over the counter items should not routinely be prescribed in primary care:

and FAQs: [https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/conditions-for-which-over-the-counter-items-should-not-be-routinely-prescribed-in-primary-care-frequently-asked-questions/](https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/conditions-for-which-over-the-counter-items-should-not-be-routinely-prescribed-in-primary-care-frequently-asked-questions/)

NHS Choices is the preferred website to signpost patients to for information: [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk).

The products highlighted below are included for illustration purposes only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Example products*</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Exceptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Probiotics</td>
<td>Probiotic sachets</td>
<td>Probiotics should not be routinely prescribed in primary care due to limited evidence of clinical effectiveness.</td>
<td>ACBS approved indications only. Other probiotics are food supplements and should be purchased OTC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitamins and Minerals</td>
<td>AMD multivitamin supplements Vitamin B compound tablets</td>
<td>Vitamins and minerals should not be routinely prescribed in primary care due to limited evidence of clinical effectiveness</td>
<td>Medically diagnosed deficiency, including for those patients who may have a lifelong or chronic condition or have undergone surgery that results in malabsorption. Continuing need should however be reviewed on a regular basis. NB maintenance or preventative vitamin D treatment should be OTC Calcium and vitamin D for osteoporosis. Malnutrition including alcoholism (see NICE guidance) Patients suitable to receive Healthy start vitamins for pregnancy or children between the ages 6 months to their fourth</td>
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<tr>
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</table>
| Infrequent Cold Sores of the lip     | Antiviral cold sore cream                                                         | A prescription for treatment of cold sores should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is self-limiting and will clear up on its own without the need for treatment. | Immunocompromised patients. ‘Red flag’ symptoms  
For further information please see:  
https://cks.nice.org.uk/herpes-simplex-oral#topicsummary |
| Acute Sore Throat                    | Lozenges, throat sprays soluble                                                   | A prescription for treatment of acute sore throat should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is self-limiting and will clear up on its own without the need for treatment. | ‘Red Flag’ symptoms  
For further information please see:  
| Coughs and Colds and Nasal Congestion| Cough mixtures or linctus, Saline nose drops, Menthol vapour rubs, Cold and flu capsules or sachets. | A prescription for treatment of coughs, colds and nasal congestion should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is self-limiting and will clear up on its own without the need for treatment. | ‘Red flag’ symptoms: i.e. cough lasting beyond 3 weeks  
For further information please see:  
https://cks.nice.org.uk/cough  
| Cradle Cap                           | Emulsifying ointment, Shampoos                                                   | A prescription for treatment of cradle cap should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is self-limiting and will clear up on its own without the need for treatment. | If causing distress to the infant and not improving  
For further information please see:  
https://cks.nice.org.uk/seborrhoeic-dermatitis#scenario |
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| Haemorrhoids  | Haemorrhoid creams, ointments and suppositories. | A prescription for treatment of haemorrhoids should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is self-limiting and will clear up on its own without the need for treatment. | ‘Red Flag’ symptoms  
For further information please see:  
https://cks.nice.org.uk/haemorrhoids#topicsummary  
| Infant Colic | Simethicone suspensions | A prescription for treatment of infant colic should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is self-limiting and will clear up on its own without the need for treatment. | ‘Red Flag’ symptoms  
For further information please see:  
https://cks.nice.org.uk/colic-infantile#topicsummary |
| Mild Cystitis | Sodium bicarbonate or potassium citrate granules | A prescription for treatment of mild cystitis should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is self-limiting and will clear up on its own without the need for treatment. | ‘Red Flag’ symptoms  
For further information please see:  
https://cks.nice.org.uk/urinary-tract-infection-lower-women  
https://www.gponline.com/red-flag-symptoms-haematuria/genito-urinary-system/article/1231033 |
| Mild irritant Dermatitis | Emollients, Steroid creams. | A prescription for treatment of contact dermatitis should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is appropriate for self-care. | No routine exceptions have been identified. See Appendix 1 for general exceptions  
For further info please see:  
https://cks.nice.org.uk/dermatitis-contact#topicsummary |
| Dandruff      | Antidandruff shampoos Antifungal shampoos | A prescription for treatment for dandruff should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is appropriate for self-care. | No routine exceptions have been identified. See Appendix 1 for general exceptions  
For further info please see:  
https://cks.nice.org.uk/seborrhoeic-dermatitis#scenario-1 |
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<tr>
<td>Diarrhoea (Adults)</td>
<td>Loperamide 2mg capsules Rehydration sachets</td>
<td>A prescription for treatment for acute diarrhoea should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is appropriate for self-care.</td>
<td>No routine exceptions have been identified. See Appendix 1 for general exceptions For further info please see: <a href="https://cks.nice.org.uk/diarrhoea-adults-assessment">https://cks.nice.org.uk/diarrhoea-adults-assessment</a> <a href="https://www.gponline.com/red-flag-symptoms-diarrhoea-investigations-when-refer/gi-tract/diarrhoea/article/1309319">https://www.gponline.com/red-flag-symptoms-diarrhoea-investigations-when-refer/gi-tract/diarrhoea/article/1309319</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dry eyes /Sore tired eyes</td>
<td>Hypromellose 0.3% eye drops</td>
<td>A prescription for treatment of dry or sore eyes should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is appropriate for self-care.</td>
<td>No routine exceptions have been identified. See Appendix 1 for general exceptions For further info please see: <a href="https://cks.nice.org.uk/dry-eye-syndrome">https://cks.nice.org.uk/dry-eye-syndrome</a> <a href="http://www.centralandeasterncheshiremmt.nhs.uk/uploads/5112">http://www.centralandeasterncheshiremmt.nhs.uk/uploads/5112</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earwax</td>
<td>Drops containing sodium bicarbonate, hydrogen peroxide, olive oil or almond oil.</td>
<td>A prescription for the removal of earwax should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is appropriate for self-care.</td>
<td>No routine exceptions have been identified. See Appendix 1 for general exceptions For further info please see: <a href="https://cks.nice.org.uk/earwax#topicsummary">https://cks.nice.org.uk/earwax#topicsummary</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excessive sweating (mild - moderate hyperhidrosis)</td>
<td>Aluminium chloride sprays, roll-ons, solutions.</td>
<td>A prescription for high strength antiperspirants for the treatment of mild to moderate hyperhidrosis should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is appropriate for self-care.</td>
<td>No routine exceptions have been identified. See Appendix 1 for general exceptions. For further info please see: <a href="https://cks.nice.org.uk/hyperhidrosis#topicsummary">https://cks.nice.org.uk/hyperhidrosis#topicsummary</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Lice</td>
<td>Creams or lotions for head lice</td>
<td>A prescription for treatment of head lice should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is appropriate for self-care.</td>
<td>No routine exceptions have been identified. See Appendix 1 for general exceptions. For further info please see: <a href="https://cks.nice.org.uk/head-lice#topicsummary">https://cks.nice.org.uk/head-lice#topicsummary</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Indigestion and</td>
<td>Antacid tablets or liquids Ranitidine 150mg Tablets OTC proton pump inhibitors e.g.</td>
<td>A prescription for treatment of Indigestion and heartburn should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is appropriate for self-care.</td>
<td>‘Red Flag’ symptoms For further info please see: [<a href="https://cks.nice.org.uk/dyspepsia-undefined">https://cks.nice.org.uk/dyspepsia-undefined</a>; cause#topicsummary](<a href="https://cks.nice.org.uk/dyspepsia-undefined">https://cks.nice.org.uk/dyspepsia-undefined</a>; cause#topicsummary) <a href="https://www.gponline.com/red-flag-symptoms-dyspepsia/g-dyspepsia/article/799980">https://www.gponline.com/red-flag-symptoms-dyspepsia/g-dyspepsia/article/799980</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Heartburn</td>
<td>omeprazole 10mg capsules. Sodium alginate, calcium carbonate or sodium bicarbonate liquids.</td>
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<td>Infrequent Constipation</td>
<td>Bisacodyl tablets 5mg Isaphagula Husk granules Lactulose solution</td>
<td>A prescription for treatment of simple constipation should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is appropriate for self-care.</td>
<td>No routine exceptions have been identified. See Appendix 1 for general exceptions For further info please see: <a href="https://cks.nice.org.uk/constipation#topicsummary">https://cks.nice.org.uk/constipation#topicsummary</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Infrequent Migraines</td>
<td>Migraleve tablets Analgesics Anti-emetic tablets</td>
<td>A prescription for the treatment of mild migraine should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is appropriate for self-care.</td>
<td>No routine exceptions have been identified. See Appendix 1 for general exceptions For further info please see: <a href="https://cks.nice.org.uk/migraine#topicsummary">https://cks.nice.org.uk/migraine#topicsummary</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Insect bites and stings</td>
<td>Steroid creams or creams for itching.</td>
<td>A prescription for treatment for insect bites and stings should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is appropriate for self-care.</td>
<td>No routine exceptions have been identified. See Appendix 1 for general exceptions For further info please see: <a href="https://cks.nice.org.uk/insect-bites-and-stings">https://cks.nice.org.uk/insect-bites-and-stings</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mild Acne</td>
<td>Benzoyl peroxide products Salicylic acid products</td>
<td>A prescription for treatment of mild acne should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is appropriate for self-care.</td>
<td>No routine exceptions have been identified. See Appendix 1 for general exceptions For further info please see: <a href="https://cks.nice.org.uk/acne-vulgaris#topicsummary">https://cks.nice.org.uk/acne-vulgaris#topicsummary</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mild Dry Skin</td>
<td>Emollient creams, ointments, lotions and bath products</td>
<td>A prescription for treatment of dry skin should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is appropriate for self-care.</td>
<td>See Appendix 1 for general exceptions. For further info please see: <a href="https://cks.nice.org.uk/eczema-atopic#scenario:1">https://cks.nice.org.uk/eczema-atopic#scenario:1</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mild to Moderate Hay fever/Seasonal Rhinitis</td>
<td>Antihistamine tablets or liquids. Steroid nasal sprays Sodium cromoglicate eye drops</td>
<td>A prescription for treatment of mild to moderate hay fever will not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is appropriate for self-care.</td>
<td>No routine exceptions have been identified. See Appendix 1 for general exceptions. For further info please see: <a href="https://cks.nice.org.uk/clinicalspecialty#?speciality=Allergies">https://cks.nice.org.uk/clinicalspecialty#?speciality=Allergies</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor Burns and Scalds</td>
<td>Acriflex Antiseptic burns cream.</td>
<td>A prescription for minor burns and scalds should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is appropriate for self-care.</td>
<td>See Appendix 1 for general exceptions. No routine exceptions have been identified. However more serious burns always require professional medical attention. Burns requiring hospital A&amp;E treatment include but are not limited to: • all chemical and electrical burns; • large or deep burns; • burns that cause white or charred skin; • burns on the face, hands, arms, feet, legs or genitals that cause blisters. For further info please see: <a href="https://cks.nice.org.uk/burns-and-scalds">https://cks.nice.org.uk/burns-and-scalds</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor conditions associated with pain, discomfort and/fever. (e.g. aches and sprains, headache, period pain, back pain)</td>
<td>Paracetamol 500mg tablets Ibuprofen 200 &amp; 400mg tablets Rubefacient creams or gels Paracetamol /Ibuprofen suspension</td>
<td>A prescription for treatment of conditions associated with pain, discomfort and mild fever should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is appropriate for self-care.</td>
<td>No routine exceptions have been identified. See Appendix 1 for general exceptions. For further information please see: <a href="https://cks.nice.org.uk/analgesia-mild-to-moderate-pain">https://cks.nice.org.uk/analgesia-mild-to-moderate-pain</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mouth Ulcers</td>
<td>Antimicrobial mouthwash gels</td>
<td>A prescription for treatment of mouth ulcers should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is appropriate for self-care.</td>
<td>No routine exceptions have been identified. See Appendix 1 for general exceptions. For further information please see: <a href="https://cks.nice.org.uk/phthous-ulcer#Itopicsummary">https://cks.nice.org.uk/phthous-ulcer#Itopicsummary</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nappy Rash</td>
<td>Nappy rash creams</td>
<td>A prescription for treatment for nappy rash should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is appropriate for self-care.</td>
<td>No routine exceptions have been identified. See Appendix 1 for general exceptions. For further information please see: <a href="https://cks.nice.org.uk/nappy-rash">https://cks.nice.org.uk/nappy-rash</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Thrush</td>
<td>Anti-fungal mouth gels</td>
<td>A prescription for treatment for oral thrush should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is appropriate for self-care.</td>
<td>No routine exceptions have been identified. See Appendix 1 for general exceptions. For further information please see: <a href="https://cks.nice.org.uk/candida-oral">https://cks.nice.org.uk/candida-oral</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevention of dental caries</td>
<td>Fluoride toothpastes Mouthwashes</td>
<td>A prescription for high fluoride OTC toothpaste should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is appropriate for self-care.</td>
<td>No routine exceptions have been identified. See Appendix 1 for general exceptions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ringworm/Athletes foot</td>
<td>Athlete's Foot Cream Antifungal creams or sprays</td>
<td>A prescription for treatment of ringworm or athletes foot should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is appropriate for self-care.</td>
<td>Lymphoedema or history of lower limb cellulitis. See Appendix 1 for general exceptions. For further information please see: <a href="https://cks.nice.org.uk/fungal-skin-infection-body-and-groin">https://cks.nice.org.uk/fungal-skin-infection-body-and-groin</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunburn due to excessive sun exposure /Sun Protection</td>
<td>After sun cream Sun protection creams</td>
<td>A prescription for sunburn or sun protection should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is appropriate for self-care.</td>
<td>See Appendix 1 for general exceptions. Sunscreens marked as ‘ACBS’ in the British National Formulary (BNF) are regarded as drugs when prescribed for skin protection against UV radiation in abnormal cutaneous photosensitivity. This includes genetic disorders, photodermatoses, including vitiligo and those resulting from radiotherapy; chronic or recurrent herpes simplex labialis.1 Prescribing for other indications is not permitted on FP10. <a href="https://patient.info/doctor/photodermatoses">https://patient.info/doctor/photodermatoses</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teething/Mild Toothache</td>
<td>Antiseptic pain relieving gel Clove Oil</td>
<td>A prescription for teething in babies or toothache in children and adults should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is appropriate for self-care.</td>
<td>No routine exceptions have been identified. See Appendix 1 for general exceptions. For further information please see: <a href="https://cks.nice.org.uk/teething">https://cks.nice.org.uk/teething</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Threadworms</td>
<td>Mebendazole 100mg tablets</td>
<td>A prescription for treatment of threadworm should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is appropriate for self-care.</td>
<td>No routine exceptions have been identified. See Appendix 1 for general exceptions. For further information please see: <a href="https://cks.nice.org.uk/threadworm">https://cks.nice.org.uk/threadworm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Sickness</td>
<td>Travel sickness tablets</td>
<td>A prescription for treatment for motion sickness should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is appropriate for self-care.</td>
<td>No routine exceptions have been identified. See Appendix 1 for general exceptions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warts and Verrucae</td>
<td>Creams, gels, skin paints and medicated plasters containing salicylic acid dimethyl ether</td>
<td>A prescription for treatment of warts and verrucae should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is appropriate for self-care.</td>
<td>No routine exceptions have been identified. See Appendix 1 for general exceptions For further information please see: <a href="https://cks.nice.org.uk/warts-and-verrucae">https://cks.nice.org.uk/warts-and-verrucae</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Conjunctivitis</td>
<td>Antimicrobial eye drops and ointment mast cell stabilisers such as sodium cromoglicate</td>
<td>A prescription for treatment of conjunctivitis should not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is self-limiting and will clear up on its own without the need for treatment.</td>
<td>‘Red flag’ symptoms For further information please see: <a href="https://cks.nice.org.uk/conjunctivitis-infective#topicsummary">https://cks.nice.org.uk/conjunctivitis-infective#topicsummary</a></td>
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