

Our Ref: 59089

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## Re: Freedom of Information Request

Please find below the response to your recent Freedom of Information request regarding prescribing within NHS Southport and Formby CCG.

Request/Response:

1. Do you have a formulary used by primary care prescribers? If so, what is the status of paracetamol tablets and suspensions, ibuprofen tablets and topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs with respect to minor conditions associated with pain, discomfort and fever?

The CCG supports the use of the Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee Formulary which can be accessed at <https://www.panmerseyapc.nhs.uk/formulary/>

2. Is there a current policy regarding prescription of paracetamol tablets and suspensions, ibuprofen tablets and topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs? If so, please provide documents and start date.

With regard to Self-Care and the use of paracetamol and ibuprofen there is a CCG policy which can be accessed at <https://www.southportandformbyccg.nhs.uk/your-health-and-services/over-the-counter-medicines/>

The policy was launched in November 2018

3. Is there a policy currently being developed regarding prescription of paracetamol tablets and suspensions, ibuprofen tablets and topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs? If so, please provide any documents and predicted start date.

Not applicable

4. Has there previously been a policy regarding prescription of paracetamol tablets and suspensions, ibuprofen tablets and topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs that has been discarded? If so, please provide documents and start and end date.

Not applicable

5. Regarding prescribing policy has the CCG given consideration to the recent NHS England guidance "Conditions for which over the counter items should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: Guidance for CCGs" published in March 2018? If so, has this guidance been implemented, or is it planned to be implemented?

Yes, the national guidance is referred to in the local CCG policy

6. Have you provided any education for prescribers regarding prescriptions for over-the-counter medication, in particular paracetamol tablets and suspensions, ibuprofen tablets and topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs? If so, when and how were these education sessions delivered (for example, meeting, didactic lecture or leaflet)?

Awareness of the policy has been raised and patient leaflets provided

7. Is there any financial incentive for GPs regarding prescription of paracetamol tablets and suspensions, ibuprofen tablets and topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs? If so, please provide documents.

No

8. Is there any planned action to enforce any policy regarding prescription of paracetamol tablets and suspensions, ibuprofen tablets and topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs should it not be upheld by prescribers? If so, please provide documents.

The CCG will continue to publicise the policy with patients and clinicians.