



Dear Parent / Carer,

With effect from December 2017, West Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group (WSCCG) will be recommending that doctors prescribe plain prednisolone tablets for paediatric patients. The soluble form of prednisolone tablets will only be used for patients who, for clinical reasons, need to have their medicines given through very narrow administration tubes.

This information is intended to explain why this decision has been made, and to provide some additional advice about how to give your child the prednisolone tablets that have been prescribed for them.

- It has been established that plain, 'non-soluble' prednisolone tablets dissolve very satisfactorily, sometimes in a shorter time than the soluble prednisolone tablets currently available. The taste of the solution is exactly the same, regardless of whether a plain or a soluble prednisolone tablet is used.
- The cost of soluble prednisolone tablets is **over 40 times more expensive** than the plain tablets. We are committed to spending NHS resources appropriately and it is possible to save the NHS in West Suffolk up to £80,000 per year without compromising the clinical care of your child.
- Our decision has been guided by NHS Improvement and other CCGs nationwide.

Tips for giving the plain prednisolone tablets to your child

Depending on the age of your child, the following suggestions may help you when giving a dose of prednisolone:

- Plain tablets will dissolve in a small amount of water or squash – this may take a few minutes in some cases.
- The tablet can be crushed and mixed with a small amount of soft food such as yogurt, honey or jam.
- If your child is able to swallow tablets, then the tablet may be swallowed whole with a drink.

If your child experiences any difficulty with taking these tablets, please do not hesitate to contact your surgery.