

Our ref:

NHS Trafford CCG
1st Floor Crossgate House
Cross Street
Sale
Manchester
M33 7FT

Tel: 0161 873 9500
Fax: 0161 873 9501
Text relay: 18001 0161 873 9500
Email: customer care.trafford@nhs.net
Date: **12 November 2018**

Dear Sir / Madam

Gluten Free Food

NHS Trafford Clinical Commissioning Group is a membership organisation led by 32 GP practices, responsible for planning and buying healthcare services for the local population. It simply does not have enough money to continue to buy all the services it currently does in the same way as before. To address this, it needs to find ways of reducing costs in some areas in order to protect other essential services.

One of the areas that have been identified by the Clinical Commissioning Group is the prescribing of Gluten Free products which are provided to patients on prescription. These products – which include flour, bread and pasta, were added to the list of products available on prescription when they were not easily available to buy locally.

Today these products are more widely available from supermarkets and are sold to the public at prices that are considerably lower than the NHS is charged when bought for use on prescription. There are also many other alternative sources of carbohydrate that do not contain gluten, for example rice and potatoes.

In addition to improved access to gluten free foods, gluten containing products are not necessary for a healthy diet and patients with gluten sensitivity can safely exclude it from their diet and still eat healthily without purchasing special foods. Patients can safely eat meat, fish, vegetables, fruit, rice and most dairy products, and there are now a wide variety of products on the market e.g rice cakes, crackers etc to allow patients to complement their gluten free diets safely and obtain all of their nutritional requirements.

For more information and advice about following a gluten free diet visit:

<https://www.coeliac.org.uk/gluten-free-diet-and-lifestyle/gf-diet/> or visit

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/eat-well/> to learn more about general healthy eating.



The Clinical Commissioning Group has asked the practice to send you this letter because you currently receive Gluten Free food on prescription. Following a NHS England national consultation and subsequent local engagement, Trafford Clinical Commissioning Group has decided to stop funding Gluten Free food on prescription from 5th November 2018.

Your next prescription will reflect this decision and will not contain any Gluten Free food items. Local supermarkets and pharmacies are also aware of this decision.

Should you require more information please refer to our Patient Information leaflet or contact your GP practice and ask to speak to a member of the practice-based pharmacist/technician.

If you still have further questions, comments or are not satisfied with the response received, please telephone Patient Experience Matters at: 0161 873 9577 or email: customer care.trafford@nhs.net .

Yours sincerely



Dr Mark Jarvis
Medical Director
Trafford Clinical Commissioning Group

Encl: Patient Information Leaflet

