

NHS England & NHS Improvement

Primary Care Directorate
(Staffordshire&Shropshire)

Anglesey House
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5th July 2019

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Dear contractor

Notification of termination of the Pharmacy First Common Ailments Service

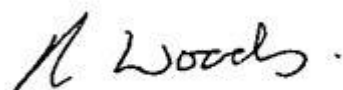
As a result of national guidance issued by NHS England in March 2018 regarding conditions for which over the counter items should not routinely be prescribed in primary care, it has now been agreed that the **Pharmacy First Common Ailments Service will be decommissioned in Staffordshire from 1st September 2019.**

The decision to decommission the service has been taken as a result of the implementation of this guidance by the Staffordshire CCGs, and supports national policy not to routinely prescribe for self-limiting conditions and minor ailments where over the counter medication is available to buy from local pharmacies and supermarkets.

NHSE has consulted locally with our CCGs and LPC colleagues regarding the decommissioning of the service, and as a result, additional information and resources will be distributed to pharmacy contractors and GP colleagues to support this move towards self-care. Patients attending pharmacies for the Common Ailments Service should be advised that it will not be available from 1st September, but they should be encouraged to continue to use pharmacy services for advice and treatment for these conditions as highlighted in the self-care promotional material.

All other NHSE commissioned Enhanced Services are not affected by this decision, and will therefore continue to be commissioned as per the current contractual period.

Yours sincerely



Rebecca Woods – Head of Primary Care