REF DGS 113

24 September 2018

Dear

Freedom of Information Request – DGS 113

Thank you for your recent request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received by NHS Dartford Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on 19 September 2018. The information you have requested is below.

1. **Have you implemented NHS England’s guidance on minor, self-limiting or other otherwise short-term conditions for which over-the-counter items should not routinely be prescribed?**

   NHS Dartford Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group advises local prescribers to follow recommendations in the guidance. However, prescribers make a final decision whether to prescribe following a consultation.

2. **The guidance recommends that vulnerable patients are exempt from the restrictions. Under the list of general exception scenarios, the guidelines include “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.”**

   **If the guidance has been implemented, have you taken steps to ensure vulnerable patients are exempt from the restrictions?**

   Prescribers retain the clinical freedom to decide on a one to one basis, who may be exempt from the guidance.
3. **Do you currently commission a community pharmacy minor ailments scheme? If so what is the annual funding level for the scheme?**

No, NHS Dartford Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group does not commission the scheme.

4. **Have you commissioned a community pharmacy minor ailments scheme in any of the last three years?**

No, NHS Dartford Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group has not commissioned a community pharmacy minor ailments scheme in any of the last 3 years.

We hope that this has dealt with your request for information however, should you remain dissatisfied, you have the right to request that we conduct an internal review of your request. If you would like us to conduct such a review please contact us within two months of this letter using the contact details below:

E-mail: swccg.northkent.foi@nhs.net
Post: FOI, NHS Dartford Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group, 2nd Floor, Gravesham Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU.

Your request for an internal review will then be processed in accordance with our Freedom of Information Policy, a copy of which can be found on our website:

[www.dartfordgraveshamswanleyccg.nhs.uk](http://www.dartfordgraveshamswanleyccg.nhs.uk)

If you are still dissatisfied following the internal review, you have the right under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner provides full and detailed guidance on the Freedom of Information Act, and on when and how to complain.

Please find below the link to their website page and their helpline number.
Helpline number: 0303 123 1113

In line with the Information Commissioner’s directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. An anonymised version of our response will therefore be posted on our website.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.