



Castle Point and Rochford
Clinical Commissioning Group



Southend
Clinical Commissioning Group

October 2013

Dear Patient

PLEASE HELP US IMPROVE YOUR LOCAL NHS

There is an increased demand to appropriately spend the money we are allocated for local service provision. We therefore constantly review the items we prescribe. Through this process we have decided to review the prescribing of continence and stoma appliances.

The costs of these products vary with some costing up to £150 per unit, however there is little difference in quality or function. A change to the most cost-effective versions in line with our local formulary could save thousands of pounds.

To ensure there are robust repeat prescription systems in place there is a change to the way you currently request your products. We now require that you request your repeat prescription directly through your GP, like you would for other medicines.

The prescription can then be posted to a supplier of your choice for home delivery or given to your local pharmacy for dispensing. We will no longer provide prescriptions directly ordered from appliance dispensers.

If you require a change in your prescription please make this through your GP or healthcare professional e.g. continence nurse, district nurse, stoma nurse

Furthermore, we have reviewed cleaning and deodorising items, these are also very expensive. When personal hygiene is maintained in the usual way, these items are unnecessary. We have therefore decided to no longer routinely prescribe these items.

In order to release money for other services, we will continue to examine our spending. If we can make changes without compromising the quality you expect and deserve, we may review prescriptions of other items.

Despite the increased pressure on our budgets, through this process, we hope to continue to improve and expand the services available to you. We are sure you will agree that this process will ensure quality and cost effectiveness and is preferable to making cuts to important local services.

Yours Sincerely

Drs Marcus Lester & Asif Ghauri

GP Prescribing Leads Castle Point & Rochford

Drs Kelvin Ng & Jose Garcia

GP Prescribing Leads Southend CCG