

Survey on prescribing over the counter medicines

November 2017



About this survey



This survey has been put together by the **NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups in North Norfolk, South Norfolk, West Norfolk and Norwich.**

NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups receive a budget that is used to plan and pay for health services for people living in Norfolk and Waveney



We think that GPs should not always give medicines for some every day illnesses and health problems on prescription because we can all buy these medicines from a pharmacy or shop easily and cheaply.



Over-the-counter medicines are safe and easy to buy from places on the high street, including from pharmacies where you can also get expert advice.



Paracetamol and other painkillers can be bought in supermarkets and at local chemists and cost around 1p for each tablet. They cost the NHS 3p for each tablet.



GPs would still prescribe these medicines to people who they think need them for long term medical conditions, for high risk or vulnerable patients or for patients that might not be able to get the medicines themselves.



We are suggesting that GPs tell patients to buy these types of medicines from a shop or pharmacy for conditions that are not serious

These include:



Medicine for pain relief – paracetamol, ibuprofen, co-codamol



Medicines for Coughs and colds– cough syrups, sore throat treatments, nasal sprays or drops



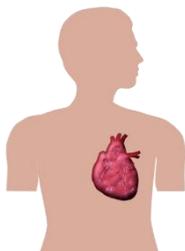
Medicines for allergies like itchy skin or hay fever



Stomach ache or bowel conditions – constipation or diarrhoea medicine



Skin creams and treatments



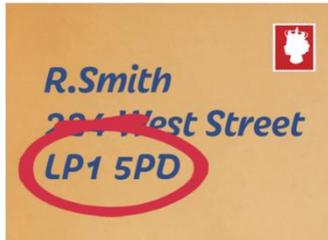
Heartburn and indigestion medicines



We have created this survey to ask patients living in Norfolk for their views on whether CCGs should now stop supporting GPs to prescribe these medicines.

Start of Survey

Your Location



1. What is the first part of your post code?



2. If you couldn't get the items listed above from your GP, would this affect you?

Yes	No	Don't know / Not sure



3. If you had to buy these medicines in shops or pharmacies, instead of getting them from your GP, how would this affect you?



4. How would these suggestions affect someone else you know or care for?



5. Are there any other medicines that are available to buy easily that we should add to the list?



6. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about this proposal?

How to return your questionnaire



You need to return this questionnaire by:

Friday 24th November 2017



You can put it in an envelope and send it back to the following freepost address:

**Freepost RTJE-GXBZ-CSJR
NHS Norwich CCG
Room 202
City Hall
St Peters Street
Norwich
NR2 1NH**