

Position statement on the prescribing for cradle cap (seborrheic dermatitis- infants)

Following the NHS England guidance 'Conditions for which over the counter items should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: Guidance for CCGs' (March 2018) the following changes to prescribing have been agreed across Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge.

From 16 March 2021
Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge Clinical Commissioning Groups (BHR CCGS) no longer supports the prescribing of treatment for cradle cap (seborrhoeic dermatitis- infants)

Decision

The decision to stop treatment for cradle cap (seborrhoeic dermatitis- infants) applies to ALL patients across Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge unless the patient fall into one of the exceptions listed below.

If symptoms are not improving or responding to treatment, then patients should be encouraged to seek further advice from a pharmacy, NHS app, NHS website or NHS 111.

Exceptions

BHR CCGs have agreed exceptions to this recommendation, where they accept that prescribing should continue in primary care:

- No improvement after a few weeks of treatment (refer to NHS website below: see advice on using mild, unperfumed baby shampoo, baby oil or vegetable oil)
- The clinician considers that the patient's ability to self-manage is compromised as a consequence of significant vulnerability to the extent that their health and/or wellbeing could be adversely affected, if reliant on self-care. Consideration should also be given to safeguarding issues

This decision was made because:

- Cradle cap is harmless and doesn't usually itch or cause discomfort. It usually appears in babies in the first two months of their lives, and clears up without treatment within weeks to a few months
- For advice on self-care, please refer to [NHS website](#)
- BHR CCGs have a duty to spend taxpayer's money wisely, to make sure they get the best value possible – especially when NHS funding is being severely squeezed and more patients are being seen with more complex health issues than ever before

References

1. NHS website: cradle cap- last reviewed: 24 January 2019. Page accessed 23 April 2021 <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/cradle-cap/>

2. NHS England and NHS Clinical Commissioners. Conditions for which over the counter items should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: Guidance for CCGs, March 2018. Publishing approval reference 07851
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/conditions-for-which-over-the-counter-items-should-not-routinely-be-prescribed-in-primary-care-guidance-for-CCGs/>