

Position statement on the prescribing for warts and verrucae

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 9 November 2021
North East London Clinical Commissioning Group (NEL CCG),
Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge Integrated Care
Partnership (BHR ICP) no longer supports the prescribing of
treatment for warts and verrucae

Decision

The decision to stop treatment for warts and verrucae applies to patients across Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge unless the patient fall into one of the exceptions listed below.

Please note that this does not affect treatment for **genital warts or warts on the face**

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.

For care home patients: access to treatment should be considered via a care home policy.

Exception

NEL CCG BHR ICP have agreed exceptions to this recommendation, where they accept that prescribing should continue in primary care for:

- Patients with diabetes

This decision was made because:

- Most people will have warts and/or verrucae at some point in their life. They are generally harmless and tend to go away on their own eventually
- Treatments such as gels, creams or skin paints containing salicylic acid can be purchased from a pharmacy to get rid of warts and verrucae more quickly if patients wish to use treatment
- NEL CCG BHR ICP 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: warts and verrucas - last reviewed: 14 October 2020. Page accessed 14 September 2021 <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/warts-and-verrucas/>
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/>