

## Position statement on the prescribing of immediate release Fentanyl

Following the NHS England guidance 'Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: Guidance for CCGs (version 2, June 2019) the following changes to prescribing have been agreed across Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge.

**From 17th September 2019  
Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge Clinical  
Commissioning Groups (BHR CCGs) no longer supports the  
prescribing of immediate release Fentanyl**

### Decision

- The decision to stop immediate release Fentanyl applies to ALL patients across Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge where the below listed exceptions do not apply:

Please note fentanyl patches remain available to prescribe where clinically appropriate.

### Exceptions

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

- Patients undergoing palliative care treatment
- Patients being treated in line with the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) clinical guideline: [NICE CG140 \(last updated August 2016\) Palliative care for adults: strong opioids for pain relief](#) whereby the recommendation to use immediate release Fentanyl has been made by a multi-disciplinary team and/or healthcare professional with a recognised specialist in palliative care. *NICE do not recommend fast-acting fentanyl as first-line rescue medication.*

### This decision was made because:

- NICE recommend immediate release fentanyl to be used in palliative care and these preparations (tablets, lozenges, films and nasal spray) are licensed only for cancer
- 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

### **Reference:**

NHS England and NHS Improvement. Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: Guidance for CCGs. Version 2, June 2019. Publishing approval reference 000608 <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/items-which-should-not-be-routinely-prescribed-in-primary-care-guidance-for-ccgs/>