

Position statement on the prescribing of Lidocaine plasters

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 Lidocaine plasters**

Decision

- The decision to stop Lidocaine plasters applies to ALL patients across Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge. BHR CCGs have agreed NO exceptions to this recommendation

This decision was made because:

- The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Clinical Guideline (CG173) Neuropathic pain in adults: pharmacological management in non-specialist settings does not recommend lidocaine plasters for treating neuropathic pain
- Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) concluded that the evidence base for lidocaine plasters is limited and there is no robust evidence for their use in Post Herpetic Neuralgia (PHN). However, there may be a place for use in patients with PHN who are intolerant of first-line therapies or where therapies have been ineffective
- No agreements have been made with our local providers, Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS trust or Barts Health NHS Trust to share care to treat patients in line with NICE CG173 Neuropathic pain in adults: pharmacological management in non-specialist settings, but are still experiencing neuropathic pain associated with previous herpes zoster infection (post-herpetic neuralgia). Patients will need to be referred to secondary care for management and treatment
- 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/>