

## **Position statement on the prescribing of milk formula**

Following the local Spending NHS Money Wisely public consultation, the Governing Bodies of the BHR CCGs met in common on 29th June 2017 to agree changes to prescribing across Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge. One of the agreed changes was to restrict the prescribing of infant soya milk. Following a review of this decision, BHR CCGs' Quality and Performance Committee met on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and agreed an update to these restrictions.

**From 24th June 2019**  
**Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge Clinical  
Commissioning Groups (BHR CCGs) no longer supports the  
prescribing of non-specialist milk.**

### **Decision**

- The decision to stop prescribing non-specialist milk formulas applies to ALL patients across Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge, where the below listed exceptions do not apply
- These products include all types of alternative soya, almond, rice, coconut and oat milk formulas (not an exhaustive list)

### **Exceptions:**

GPs across BHR CCGs should continue to prescribe suitable specialised hypoallergenic formula milk for infants and children with confirmed milk intolerance conditions such as:

- Cow's milk protein allergy (CMPA),
  - Premature birth
  - Faltering growth
  - Specific medical conditions such as renal or liver disease
- Examples of specialised milk formulas include (lists are not exhaustive – see BHR CCGs' CMPA prescribing guidance)
    - Extensively Hydrolysed Formulae (EHF): Similac Alimentum, Nutramigen
    - Amino Acid Formulae (AAF) - SMA Alfamino, Nutramigen PURAMINO, Neocate LCP
    - Preterm low birth weight infants - SMA Gold Prem 2, Nutriprem 2

### **This decision was made because:**

- Historically it was difficult to buy alternative milk formulas, however this is no longer the case and these milk formulas are widely available at supermarkets and online
- BHR CCGs is enforcing its current guidance for prescribing for CMPA
- 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