

Position statement on the prescribing of insulin pen needles

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 insulin pen needles that cost over £4.50 per 100 needles

Decision

- The decision to stop insulin pen needles that cost over £4.50 per 100 needles applies to ALL patients across Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge.

Please note that this limit differs to NHS England guidance of stopping pen needles that cost over £5 per 100. This is because the limit and guidance for prescribing pen needles had been agreed prior to the NHSE England guidance being published.

Exceptions

BHR CCGs have an agreed exception to this recommendation, where they accept that prescribing should continue in primary care.

- Safety pen needles which incorporate automatic safety locks for patient(s) who have their injectable medicine(s) administered to them by a non-clinical worker e.g. school staff or social care worker

This decision was made because:

- There are many different types of insulin pen needles available at a varying cost from £2.75 to £30.08 for 100. Rationalising use ensures that the most cost-effective options are used first line.
- BHR CCGs already have guidance for prescribing of selected cost-effective brands of disposable pen needles (less than £4.50 per 100 needles)
- 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:

Guidance for prescribing of disposable pen needles. Approved by BHR CCGs Area Prescribing sub-Committees. Updated July 2019

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/>