

# Medicines Optimisation intervention brief

## Medicines Optimisation Incentive Scheme 2018/19 NHSE (Items which should Not be routinely Prescribed in primary care) Interventions – herbal treatment

<b>TITLE?</b>
INP1.6 Deprescribe all herbal treatments
<b>WHAT?</b>
In December 2017 NHS England <sup>1</sup> made the following recommendation regarding herbal treatments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prescribers in primary care should not initiate herbal items for any new patient</li> <li>• CCGs should support prescribers in deprescribing herbal items in all patients</li> </ul>
<b>WHY?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a lack of efficacy and safety evidence to support the use of herbal treatments on the NHS.<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• The MHRA allows herbal products to be marketed for <b>minor</b> health conditions that don't require medical supervision, upon receipt of a Traditional Herbal Registration (THR). Claims to treat major health conditions are not allowed under a THR and would need a marketing authorisation. Under a THR there is no requirement to prove scientifically that a product works, the registration is based on longstanding use of the product. These products should be purchased as part of self care.<sup>1,2</sup></li> </ul>
<b>WHO?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All patients prescribed a herbal treatment</li> </ul>
<b>TIPS?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the standard search to identify patients</li> </ul>
<b>HOW?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Search for all patients prescribed a herbal treatment</li> <li>• Send a copy of the WHCCG patient review letter or alternative patient letter to each patient as agreed with individual practices</li> <li>• Remove item from repeat prescription list for each patient and add explanatory note to the patient consultation record</li> </ul>
<b>SO WHAT?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NHS England guidance implemented</li> </ul>
<b>FURTHER INFORMATION</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: Guidance for CCGs. NHS England December 2017 <a href="https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/items-which-should-not-be-routinely-prescribed-in-pc-ccg-guidance.pdf">https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/items-which-should-not-be-routinely-prescribed-in-pc-ccg-guidance.pdf</a></li> <li>2. Herbal remedies. PrescQIPP 2018</li> <li>3. WHCCG Policy Statement reference no. <a href="#">PS005</a></li> </ol>

