

# Medicines Optimisation intervention brief

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

<b>TITLE?</b>
INP1.7 Deprescribe all homeopathic remedies
<b>WHAT?</b>
In December 2017 NHS England <sup>1</sup> made the following recommendation regarding homeopathy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prescribers in primary care should not initiate homeopathic items for any new patient</li> <li>• CCGs should support prescribers in deprescribing homeopathic items in all patients</li> </ul>
<b>WHY?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no clear or robust evidence to support the use of homeopathy on the NHS.<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• In 2010, a report by the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee found that the use of homeopathy was not evidence-based and any benefit to patients was down to placebo effect.<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) does not recommend homeopathy for the treatment of any health condition and specifically recommends against the use of homeopathy for the treatment of otitis media with effusion, induction of labour or treatment of lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS) in men.<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>
<b>WHO?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All patients prescribed a homeopathic remedy</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 homeopathic remedy</li> <li>• Contact each patient as agreed with individual practices</li> <li>• Remove item from repeat prescription list for each patient or move to past drugs if on the acute list and add an 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. Homeopathic remedies. PrescQIPP 2018</li> <li>3. National Institute of Health and Care Excellence guidance. <a href="https://www.nice.org.uk">https://www.nice.org.uk</a></li> <li>4. WHCCG Policy Statement reference no. <a href="#">PS006</a></li> </ol>

