**Prescribing Tip No. 179 Date: 13th October 2017**

**IMPORTANT - Update to Prescribing for Clinical Need Policy**

The CCG Prescribing for Clinical Need Policy was introduced in November 2016 and under the policy restrictions were placed on the prescribing of certain topical preparations.

* Emollient creams and ointments – should **only** be prescribed for patients with a **confirmed diagnosis of significant skin disease including eczema and psoriasis.** Patients discharged from a **specialist centre** on a particular product should be **maintained on the same product if effective**.
* Barrier creams – the prescribing of barrier creams for the treatment of **nappy rash** is no longer supported.

In separate guidance issued by the Medicines Optimisation team **the use of bath and shower emollients was no longer recommended due to the lack of clinical evidence of their benefit.** (Prescribing tip 38 August 2014 Guidance on the use of bath and shower emollients).

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Following the initiation of Prescribing for Clinical Need Policy in practice the CCG customer care team and Medicines Optimisation team have received high levels of queries from both practices and patients. It appears that practice interpretation of the policy is variable across the CCG. As a result it is felt necessary to have further discussions with local dermatology colleagues to provide extra clarity for practices.

**Recommendations for practice**

* **Decisions made to date to discontinue treatment based on clinical judgement should be upheld.**
* **Any further practice reviews of the use of these products should be suspended until further guidance can be issued.**

**To contact the Medicines Optimisation Team please phone 01772 214302**