**Prescribing Tip No. 180 Date: 20th October 2017**

**Guidance on the prescribing of Oral Nutritional Supplements**

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**The Lancashire Medicines Management Group (LMMG) has recently issued guidance on the** [**Use of Oral Nutritional Supplements in Primary Care**](http://www.lancsmmg.nhs.uk/download/guidelines/ONS-guidance-Version-1.0-September-2017.pdf)**.**

**The guidance:**

* promotes a **food first** approach to the management of patients;
* highlights the purpose of oral nutritional supplementation (ONS) as a **supplement to food intake**, not as a replacement for it;
* recognises that the availability of ONS does not remove the need to manage the underlying condition responsible for the patient’s poor appetite.

**Included within the guidance are:**

* criteria for referral of patients to dietetics;
* links via the Bapen website to a MUST score template;
* a decision aid supporting the appropriate use of ONS by primary care practitioners and
* **guidance on the stepping down and stopping of ONS when treatment goals have been achieved**.

**In addition, a formulary for use across Greater Preston and Chorley & South Ribble CCGs of preferred ONS has been developed with local dietetic input. The formulary provides recommendations on preferred first, second and third line agents to use.**

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**A copy of the formulary will be available on the Medicines Optimisation Team site on Sharepoint.**

<http://ccg.centrallancashire.nhs.uk/mmopt/SitePages/Home.aspx>

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