

Commissioning Statement

<p>Treatment</p>	<p>Herbal medicines and health supplements</p> <p><i>Examples of preparations include:-</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>St John's Wort</i> • <i>Echinacea</i> • <i>Cod liver oil</i> • <i>Protein powders</i> • <i>Amino acid powders</i> • <i>Vitamins and minerals</i> <p><i>This list is not exhaustive and other preparations not listed here but considered a herbal medicine or health supplement will be considered in the same way.</i></p>
<p>For the treatment of</p>	<p>Various indications</p>
<p>Commissioning position</p>	<p>Calderdale CCG commissions the use of these types of product only for clinically diagnosed deficiency states or where supported by national published guidance/programme. The use for conditions that do not meet these criteria is not supported.</p> <p>Rationale: Some of these types of product are recognised treatments for medical conditions or included in national programme, e.g. magnesium supplements for diagnosed deficiency; amino acid supplements in certain paediatric metabolic conditions (when recommended by specialist); children's vitamin drops as part of the national healthy start programme. However for other circumstances there is insufficient evidence base for their use.</p>
<p>Date effective from</p>	<p>25th June 2015</p>
<p>Policy to be reviewed by</p>	<p>May 2018</p>
<p>Background information</p>	<p>The CCG will only fund interventions that are supported by evidence that demonstrates clinical and cost effectiveness. At this time there is insufficient high quality evidence that demonstrates the clinical and cost effectiveness of herbal medicines and health supplements; however it is acknowledged that there are some limited circumstances where such use may be justified, e.g. clinically diagnosed deficiency.</p> <p>The NHS should only invest in treatments which are of proven effectiveness unless it does so in the context of well designed,</p>

	<p>sufficiently powered and properly conducted clinical trials.</p> <p>NHS prescribing of herbal medicines and health supplements without a medicinal product licence (i.e. a product licensed for a particular indication) is not routinely recommended. Products that do not have a product licence have not undergone the strict criteria laid down by the regulatory authorities to confirm the safety, quality and efficacy of these products. They are often not manufactured to the same high pharmaceutical standards used for licensed medicines to ensure consistency in formulation and potency.</p>
<p>Contact for this policy</p>	<p>Medicines Management Lead</p>