

Commissioning Statement

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| Treatment | Homeopathic medicines |
| For the treatment of | Homeopathy is a complementary or alternative medicine used to treat a wide range of conditions |
| Commissioning position | <p>NHS Calderdale CCG does not routinely commission or fund homeopathic treatments.</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 homeopathy.</p> <p>Patients may choose to purchase these preparations over-the-counter.</p> |
| Date effective from | 10.10.2017 |
| Policy to be reviewed by | <p>09.10.2020</p> <p>(To be reviewed earlier if NICE issues guidance at an earlier date)</p> |
| Background information | <p>A report completed by the House of Commons; Science and Technology Committee concluded that the NHS should cease the funding of homeopathy. It states: “By providing homeopathy on the NHS and allowing MHRA licensing of products which subsequently appear on pharmacy shelves, the Government runs the risk of endorsing homeopathy as an efficacious system of medicine. To maintain patient trust, choice and safety, the Government should not endorse the use of placebo treatments, including homeopathy. Homeopathy should not be funded on the NHS and the MHRA should stop licensing homeopathic products.” [1].</p> <p>The University of York NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination summary of research evidence on the effectiveness of homeopathy concludes that there is insufficient data to endorse homeopathy as a treatment for any specific condition, or to permit changes in the current provision for homeopathy [2].</p> <p>This commissioning position is further supported by NHS England’s formal public consultation on new national guidelines. This includes data on drugs of low priority and clinical effectiveness for NHS funding; of which homeopathy is included [3].</p> |

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| <p>Summary of evidence/rationale</p> | <p>Clinical effectiveness:</p> <p>The NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination notes that ‘The evidence base for homeopathy needs to be interpreted with caution’ [2]. There is currently insufficient evidence of effectiveness either to recommend homeopathy as a treatment for any specific condition, or to warrant significant changes in the current provision of homeopathy [2].</p> <p>The lack of evidence is also noted by PrescQIPP and Cochrane [4,5].</p> <p>Cost effectiveness/resource impact:</p> <p>There is insufficient evidence of the clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of homeopathy. Homeopathic treatments are therefore not routinely commissioned or funded.</p> <p><u>References</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmselect/cmsctech/45/45.pdf 2. https://www.york.ac.uk/media/crd/ehc73.pdf 3. https://www.england.nhs.uk/2017/07/medicine-consultation/ 4. https://www.prescqipp.info/drop-list/headline-areas/the-prescqipp-drop-list 5. http://www.cochrane.org/search/site/homeopathy <p>References accessed on 25.8.17</p> |
| <p>Contact for this policy</p> | <p>Medicines Management Lead</p> |