



Achieving the Best Health for Buckinghamshire's Residents: Difficult decisions

In Buckinghamshire, your local NHS is committed to getting the best for the entire population of the county. We must make sure that we get the best healthcare we can with the funds available. We are not able to spend more on health than our budget. This means that to afford new advances in care we must look at which treatments are used locally and which are not.

A great amount of consideration goes into making these decisions, involving local health professionals from a number of specialities.

They consider issues such as

- Does the treatment work?
- Is it safe?
- Does it provide value for money?
- Is there is a national best practice guideline and/or solid evidence for use?
- Are there exceptional circumstances in which the treatment may be used?

This results in local decisions. Sometimes it is decided that a medication or procedure is not used locally. You may be told that it is not funded, a low priority or that patients should purchase the treatments.

If a treatment is not recommended then money is not taken away from the local area. It means the money we have can be spent better, in a way that will get more benefits for more people.

We hope you will support the decisions made so that we can achieve the best healthcare for the most people.

Items not normally recommended for prescribing locally include:

- Aciclovir (topical) for cold sores
- Antacids
- Antihistamines
- Anusol
- Beconase (except for under 18s and chronic rhinitis)
- Bonjela
- Chloramphenicol eye products (except under 2s)
- Clotrimazole (except for children and in pregnancy)
- Colief
- Corsodyl mouthwash
- Daktacort (except for scrotal or facial use)
- Dioralyte and other oral rehydration products
- Earcalm
- Eumovate (except for children and long term conditions and use on the face must be prescribed)
- Head lice medication
- 1% hydrocortisone (except for children and long term conditions and use on the face must be prescribed)
- Ibuprofen (except high doses e.g. 600mg+ and long term use)
- Loperamide (e.g. Imodium)
- Mebendazole (except for use in pregnancy or under 2 years)
- Olive oil and other ear wax softeners
- Paracetamol (except for regular long term use)
- Salactol
- Sodium bicarbonate ear drops
- Sterimar