

Spending NHS money wisely

Changes to IVF services, prescribing and cosmetic procedures

Dear patients

In order to protect funding our most essential health services – things like cancer care, emergency care, life threatening conditions and mental health services, GPs across Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge are making changes to prescribing, cosmetic procedures and IVF services. From **10 July 2017** we will be:

- No longer prescribing some ‘over the counter’ medicines and products (including multi vitamins, gluten-free food, muscle rubs etc.) on the NHS
- Stopping NHS funding for procedures that are purely cosmetic – except for cancer patients
- Reducing the number of embryo transfers for IVF that the NHS will fund locally
- Introducing new criteria for weight-loss surgery on the NHS.

Why are we doing this?

Like many areas across the country, we are faced with some very difficult choices to protect essential health services. The care and treatment that we provide every day for patients is funded by taxpayers’ money. That’s why we have a duty to spend it wisely, to make sure we get the best value we possibly can for every penny – especially when NHS funding is being severely squeezed and we are seeing more patients with more complex health issues than ever before.

To protect funding for essential services in our area we have to make savings of **£55million** and we must look at reducing spending now. Local clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) recently held an eight week public consultation talking about some of the things we thought we could save money on. Local people agreed with most of our proposals.

Unfortunately, no change is not an option, and it’s up to us – with your help - to get the local NHS onto a secure and sustainable footing to make sure we can maintain those vital services for you and your families.

The areas of NHS spend listed above add up to around savings of up to **£3million** a year. These are services and treatments that aren’t life threatening, as we want to make sure that local people will always be able to get treatment for conditions like cancer, heart disease and serious mental illness.

We know some of these decisions won’t be popular, but we have to look at where we can save money so we can protect priority, lifesaving services for all. More information about the changes and the reasons behind them can be found on the CCG websites.

www.barkingdagenhamccg.nhs.uk/spending-wisely
www.haveringccg.nhs.uk/spending-wisely
www.redbridgeccg.nhs.uk/spending-wisely

Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge clinical commissioning groups