

## ***BROOK LANE SURGERY***

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29<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Dear patient/carer

### **Deprescribing of gluten free foods**

We are contacting you in relation to a decision that has been made by NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Commissioning Board to standardise how people access gluten-free food across Hampshire and Isle of Wight.

Across the NHS it is very important that the limited funding available is used in the best possible way for local people. It is also important that across our local area there is not unjustified variation and differences in care that creates postcode lotteries for local residents. Up until now, across Hampshire and Isle of Wight there has been a difference in how people access gluten free foods, depending on where they live.

With this in mind, the organisation responsible for commissioning local NHS services – NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Commissioning Board - have approved a proposal to remove gluten-free food prescribing through the NHS in Hampshire, Portsmouth, and Southampton. This means that your prescribed gluten free foods will cease **after your next prescription is issued (i.e. one last prescription will be allowed after this letter has been issued)**.

The decision was a difficult one to make and it was taken following considering of a range of both clinical and social factors, including the wide availability of gluten free products in supermarkets.

At the practice we understand that changing how you manage your gluten-free diet may cause you some concerns and would like to reassure you that measures are in place to help you with further information.

Including:

- Frequently asked questions (FAQs) can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3wLRVZc> . Coeliac UK's 7-day meal plan is available here: <https://bit.ly/3T8CO4r> . Coeliac Disease patient videos available here: <https://bit.ly/49MjtLM> .
- Regular coeliac check-ups will not be affected.
- For those with exceptional medical circumstances please contact your specialist and together with them we will work with the ICB's individual funding request (IFR) panel to request that prescriptions for gluten free foods are continued.

We hope that you understand the rationale behind this decision. If you have any concerns about how this will impact your health, please first read through the FAQs on the following website: <https://bit.ly/3wLRVZc> .

If you have further questions please contact the Patient Experience Team at NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board who will be able to explain further the rationale around the decision if needed. For patients living within Hampshire and Isle of Wight, please email: [hiowicb-hsi.patientexperience@nhs.net](mailto:hiowicb-hsi.patientexperience@nhs.net)

Email is the preferred way to correspond with the Patient Experience Team at NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board, but if you wish to leave a voice mail for a member of the Team, please dial 0300 561 2561.

Yours sincerely,

Brook Lane Surgery