

Position Statement on the prescribing of Anthroposophical (Homeopathic and Herbal) Medicines

BNSSG ICB does not support the routine prescribing of Anthroposophical (Homeopathic or Herbal) medicines in line with the ICB homeopathy policy¹ and guidance from NHS England²

Rationale:

- There is insufficient high quality evidence to demonstrate clinical effectiveness of anthroposophical (herbal and homeopathic) medicines³. Prescriptions or interventions across BNSSG are only recommended at NHS expense, where they are supported by robust evidence demonstrating clinical and cost effectiveness.
- The National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE) does not recommend homeopathy for the treatment of any health condition⁴.
- The Specialist Pharmacy Service conducted a review of the evidence for homeopathy which found that there was no clear or robust evidence to support the use of homeopathy on the NHS⁵.
- NHS England classes the products as an 'Item of low clinical effectiveness, where there is a lack of robust evidence of clinical effectiveness or there are significant safety concerns' advising that prescribers in primary care should not initiate homeopathic items for any new patient and to deprescribe homeopathic items in all patients².
- PrescQIPP has made available a patient information leaflet ([link](#)) explaining why homeopathy will no longer be prescribed

Advice for Clinicians

- Prescribers across BNSSG should not initiate the prescribing of any anthroposophical items for any new patient.
- Prescribers should seek to deprescribe anthroposophical items in all patients from NHS prescriptions.
- Anthroposophical preparations are not approved for use in the BNSSG Joint Formulary for medicines. If a clinician wishes to put in an application for a medicine to be on the formulary they must go through the agreed application process
- An exceptional funding request policy for homeopathy treatment exists for BNSSG ICB¹.
- If clinical evidence changes, this position statement will be reviewed accordingly

References:

1. BNSSG ICB Homeopathy Policy: [Homeopathy Policy - NHS BNSSG ICB](#)
2. NHS England. Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: policy guidance:
3. [NHS England » Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: policy guidance](#)
4. NHS Choices. Your Health, your choices. Homeopathy: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/homeopathy/>
5. NHS Choices. Your Health, your choices. Complementary and alternative medicine <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/complementary-and-alternative-medicine/>
6. Specialist Pharmacy Services (SPS) Clinical evidence for homeopathy: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2017/11/sps-homeopathy.pdf>.