

Our ref: MMT/AdvisoryNote/Savings
Date April 2018
To: Practice Prescribing Leads
Practice Managers

Re: Head Lice Treatment- Self Care recommended

Practices are encouraged to review their prescribing of head lice treatments, following the review of over the counter product prescribing by NHSE:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/medicines/conditions-for-which-over-the-counter-items-should-not-routinely-be-prescribed/> Please advise patients that a prescription for treatment of head lice will not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is appropriate for self-care.

Please Note:

Health care professionals should be aware that there is a **risk of serious burns with headlice products** if treated hair is exposed to open flames or other sources of ignition, eg, cigarettes. Pharmacists should tell people about the risk of fire when they discuss head lice eradication options.

Head lice are a common problem, particularly in school children aged 4-11. They're largely harmless, but can live in the hair for a long time if not treated and can be irritating and frustrating to deal with.

Head lice can easily be treated with wet combing or over the counter medicines that can be purchased from a pharmacy.

Useful links

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

<https://cks.nice.org.uk/head-lice#!topicsummary>

Link to self care guidance:

<http://www.scarboroughryedaleccg.nhs.uk/policies-and-protocols/self-care-and-minor-ailments-prescribing-guidance/>

'no prescription required' document

There is a 'no prescription required' document in all SystemOne practices that prescribers can print and give to the patient to take to a pharmacy for self-care treatment. This has been filed in a new folder called 'ScRCCG Medicines Management' so it to be accessed quickly and easily. It can also be found on the website on the link above.

Please share the information in this letter with all members of staff in the practice who are involved in the care of patients, in the prescribing of medicines or the issuing of prescriptions.

Yours sincerely,
The Medicines Management Team, ScR CCG