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Our Ref: 170731/sm/yh/glutenprescribing/ptltr  
Date: 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017

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Dear Patient,

**Re: Change to gluten-free food prescribing**

NHS Shropshire CCG is responsible for commissioning local healthcare.

Commissioning in the NHS involves making decisions about local need, the allocation of resources, the purchasing of services as well as their monitoring and review. The CCG has a duty and responsibility to commission safe and effective services that deliver the best affordable care within the resources available.

As part of its review of the prescribing process in Shropshire, the CCG has decided to stop prescribing gluten-free (GF) foods for patients of all ages diagnosed with coeliac disease from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017.

For the past 30 years the NHS has prescribed GF foods to patients who have been diagnosed with coeliac disease. This service started when GF foods were not as readily available as they are today.

Today, GF products are widely available from all supermarkets and are sold to the public at prices that are considerably lower than the NHS is charged when bought for use on prescription. There are also many other alternative sources of carbohydrate that do not contain gluten, for example, rice and potatoes.

Many people, who do not have coeliac disease, now choose to follow a GF diet. This increase in demand has seen the quality of the products improve as well as a reduction in cost.

Because of several factors, including no clinical evidence that people with coeliac disease need to receive GF food on prescription, and the wide availability and variety of GF alternatives, the CCGs have decided to end this service.

You should still see your GP annually for routine monitoring of your condition, and you should also discuss annual flu vaccinations and pneumococcal vaccinations (every five years) with your GP.

If you have any queries or concerns about this change in prescribing, please contact the CCGs via: [shrccq.motqueries@nhs.net](mailto:shrccq.motqueries@nhs.net)

Yours sincerely,



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