**From:** SWINFIELD, Kirstie (NHS LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND ICB - 04C) <kirstie.swinfield@nhs.net>
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 16, 2024 10:13 AM
**Subject:** Public consultation on proposed changes to the prescribing of gluten-free products

Dear colleague

**Public consultation** **on** **proposed changes to the prescribing of gluten-free products**

The local NHS is proposing changes to the prescribing of gluten-free products on prescription.  Before we make a final decision, we wish to understand what this means for people and their families.

Patients diagnosed with coeliac disease and dermatitis herpetiformis are currently prescribed a maximum of eight units of gluten-free bread or flour per month.

The NHS Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board (LLR ICB) is proposing to stop providing gluten-free products on prescription.  This is based on a number of factors, including the increased availability of gluten-free foods. In the past gluten-free foods were less easy to obtain, so they were made available from local pharmacies via prescription. However, with an increased awareness of coeliac disease and gluten intolerance, as well as a general trend towards eating less gluten, there is greater availability of these foods in many supermarkets and online. Improvements have also been made to food labelling so that it is easier to see whether ordinary foods are free from gluten.

All patients aged 16 or over registered at a GP practice in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland are invited to share their experiences of prescribing of gluten-free products on prescription through a questionnaire available online and as a paper questionnaire.

Please join the conversation and encourage as many people as possible to participate.

Below, we have included some messages, which we would be grateful if you could send out to your networks. There is also a social media copy to share on Facebook, Whatsapp or any platforms you are part of.

Many thanks for your time and support in spreading the word about this public consultation.

Kind regards

Jit Parekh

Engagement and Insight Team

NHS Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board

TEL: 07557 157109

**Message to share**

**Share your experiences on proposed changes to the prescribing of gluten-free products**

All patients aged 16 or over registered at a GP practice in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland are invited to share their experiences of prescribing of gluten-free products on prescription through a questionnaire available online and as a paper questionnaire.

Patients diagnosed with coeliac disease and dermatitis herpetiformis are currently prescribed a maximum of eight units of gluten-free bread or flour per month.

The local NHS proposes to stop providing gluten-free products on prescription. This is based on a number of factors, including the increased availability of gluten-free foods. In the past gluten-free foods were less easy to obtain, so they were made available from local pharmacies via prescription. However, with an increased awareness of coeliac disease and gluten intolerance, as well as a general trend towards eating less gluten, there is greater availability of these foods in many supermarkets and online. Improvements have also been made to food labelling so that it is easier to see whether ordinary foods are free from gluten.

Please complete a short questionnaire to share how this would impact you and your family.  It is really important to share your views.  Your response will be anonymous and will help influence the NHS decision about this proposal.

**Ways to get involved:**

* Fill out a questionnaire online by **Sunday 25 August 2024**[www.bit.ly/LLRGFSurvey](http://www.bit.ly/LLRGFSurvey)
* Pick up a questionnaire from your GP practice/pharmacy
* Follow our social channels:

**@NHS Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland**

**@NHS\_LLR**

* Request a hard copy questionnaire by emailing: **llricb-llr.beinvolved@nhs.net**
* Telephone: **0116 295 7532**

**Text to send**

The local NHS is proposing to stop providing gluten-free products on prescription. Before making a final decision, they wish to understand what this means for people and their families in Leicester, Leicestershire or Rutland. Find out more and take part. Visit [www.bit.ly/llrgfsurvey](http://www.bit.ly/llrgfsurvey)

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ii) do not disclose, copy or distribute information in this e-mail or take any action in relation to its content (to do so is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful).
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