

POSITION STATEMENT

Gluten free food for use in Coeliac Disease and gluten intolerance

Recommendation:

LSCMMG do not recommend the prescribing of gluten free food products for use in coeliac disease or other gluten intolerances - **LSCMMG RAG status - 'Do not prescribe'**

Supporting information

Historically, availability of Gluten Free (GF) foods in supermarkets was poor. To improve access, GF products were obtained on prescription from community pharmacies. However, with the increased awareness of coeliac disease and gluten sensitivity as well as a general trend towards eating less gluten, GF foods are now much easier and accessible to purchase. A wide and expanding range of GF foods are now available from supermarkets and online at a more cost-effective price compared with similar products on prescription - which include handling charges and out of pocket expenses.

The NHS Constitution commits the NHS:

- To provide best value for taxpayers' money and the most-effective, fair and sustainable use of finite resources.
- To make decisions in a clear and transparent way

Both the Statement of Principles and the development of the GF commissioning statement have been through a public engagement process.