28th August 2013.

Dear Colleagues,

**Re: Products not advised for NHS prescribing**

Wandsworth Clinical Commissioning Group would like to remind GPs and Community Pharmacists that there are some products that are not recommended for prescribing on the NHS.

These products are not licensed drugs under the Medicines Act, as they have not undergone the same regulatory assessment of their efficacy and safety as UK licensed medicines. There is a lack of robust evidence to support prescribing on the NHS and these products are not deemed cost-effective for the NHS.

Some of these products include:
- Supplements, e.g. glucosamine and glucosamine/chondroitin, evening primrose oil (gamolenic acid), cod liver oil, co-enzyme Q10, etc.
- General OTC Vitamin preparations (excluding those prescribed for diagnosed deficiency)
- Vitamin preparations for macular degeneration e.g. Occuvite, Icaps, Preservision, etc.
- Homeopathic remedies
- Herbal remedies, e.g. St John’s Wort, ginkgo biloba, etc.
- Probiotics and Prebiotics e.g. VSL probiotics
- Bio-oil

Local hospitals do not prescribe these items and therefore, GPs are advised not to prescribe these products on the NHS.

If patients wish to take these products, they can purchase them over-the-counter from pharmacies and health food shops.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Beavon
Chief Pharmacist