

Position Statement: *To be adhered to in line with the CCG Prescribing Policy*

Treatment	Prescribing of Oral Nutritional Supplements (ONS)
Commissioning position	<p>The CCG Prescribing Guidance details food fortification as the first line approach for patients identified as being at risk of malnutrition using the MUST score. Patients can receive supplements only if meeting specific criteria within the CCG Prescribing Guidance.</p> <p>Herefordshire & Worcestershire CCG do not normally fund the prescribing of Oral Nutritional Supplements except in the specific circumstances detailed in the CCG Prescribing Guidance.</p> <p>Oral Nutritional Supplements should not be prescribed for residents within catered care and nursing home establishments unless criteria for prescribing detailed in the Prescribing Guidance is met.</p> <p>Good coordination between the hospital and the home or community will be required when patients are transferred between settings.¹ In the case of transfer from secondary care to primary care, oral nutritional supplements <u>should not continue</u> unless there is a written plan with treatment goals and reviews in line with CCG Prescribing Guidance.</p> <p>Herefordshire & Worcestershire CCG do not support the NHS prescribing of soup ONS products and there is limited eligibility criteria applied to pudding products.²</p> <p>This position statement applies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all NHS prescribers within Herefordshire & Worcestershire including all independent healthcare professionals; • all prescribers within contracted services; • all patients registered with a Herefordshire or Worcestershire GP or attending an NHS healthcare appointment in Herefordshire or Worcestershire; and, • all patients whether or not they pay for their prescriptions.
Summary of Evidence	<p>Malnutrition is a state in which deficiency of nutrients such as energy, protein, vitamins and minerals cause adverse effects on the body. Malnutrition is a cause and consequence of ill health and increases patient's vulnerability to disease. Methods to improve or maintain nutritional intake are known as nutrition support; these include oral nutritional support, fortified food, additional snacks and or sip feeds.</p> <p>Studies have shown that increasing the energy density of meals through food enrichment can increase an individual's overall calorific intake up to 30% and that dietary counselling gave comparable increases in weight to oral nutritional supplement use.³</p>
Financial Implications	<p>Oral Nutritional Supplements are expensive when obtained via an NHS prescription because of clinician time and dispensing costs. Oral nutritional supplements are widely available in supermarkets and other retail outlets to purchase with a wide variety of choice.</p>

Other Considerations	Detailed patient information to support effective weight management is available as part of the CCG Prescribing Guidance, thereby meeting individual patient preferences.
Approved Date for Review	April 2020 April 2023 <i>or sooner if additional national guidance and/or published evidence is made available</i>
References	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NICE Clinical Guidelines 32 Accessed https://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG32 2. Prescqipp: Guidelines for the appropriate prescribing of oral nutritional supplements (ONS) for adults in primary care. April 2017. Accessed https://www.prescqipp.info/media/1512/b145-ons-guidelines-30.pdf 3. BAPEN Accessed at https://www.bapen.org.uk/nutrition-support/nutrition-by-mouth/food-first-food-enrichment