



Spending NHS money wisely

Changes to prescribing, cosmetic procedures and IVF services

So we can protect funding essential health services – things like cancer care, emergency care, other life threatening conditions and mental health services, GPs across Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge are making changes to prescribing, cosmetic procedures and IVF services. From **10 July 2017** we will be:

- No longer prescribing some 'over the counter' medicines and products (including multi vitamins, gluten-free foods, cold remedies, muscle rubs) on the NHS
- Stopping NHS funding for procedures that are only cosmetic – except for cancer patients
- Reducing the number of IVF embryo transfers that the NHS will fund locally to one for women aged 23-39 and stopping funding IVF for women aged 40-41.

Why are we doing this?

The care and treatment that we provide here every day for patients is funded by taxpayers' money and we have a duty to spend it wisely – especially when NHS funding is being severely squeezed and we are seeing more patients than ever before.

To protect essential services in our area we have to make savings of **£55million**. Your local clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) recently held an eight week public consultation talking about some of the things we thought we could save money on. Local people agreed with most of our proposals.

Unfortunately, no change is not an option, and it's up to us – with your help - to get the local NHS onto a secure and sustainable footing to make sure we can maintain those vital services for you and your families. This may mean that you will not get some medicines you've previously had on the NHS.

We know some of these decisions won't be popular, but we have to look at where we can save money so we can protect funding priority, lifesaving services for all.

Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge clinical commissioning groups