



Nottinghamshire Area Prescribing Committee

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**06<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

**Re Liothyronine (T3) in hypothyroidism**

Dear [REDACTED]

We are writing to you regarding liothyronine prescribed for hypothyroidism.

Liothyronine was reclassified in March 2015 as **GREY** on the Nottinghamshire Joint Formulary due to the lack of evidence for additional benefit compared to levothyroxine and its expense. The Nottinghamshire Area Prescribing Committee issued a position statement at that point, advising against starting new patients on liothyronine but allowing already established patients to continue treatment.

In March 2015, the cost for one year of treatment with liothyronine on a 10microgram twice daily dose was estimated to be £1300. In January 2017 the cost for the same regimen has increased to £3098. Treating patients with 100micrograms levothyroxine daily would cost the NHS £19.92 per year.

As you can see the price for liothyronine has continued to rise and there is a drive to switch all patients on to a more cost-effective alternative. We are collating data from across the county and so far we identified 79 patients treated with liothyronine for hypothyroidism out of which 25 have been started by yourself or are under your care.

The purpose of this letter is to highlight the cost of this treatment and inform you that the NHS locally will no longer be able to continue prescribing. The plan is to switch the patients currently receiving liothyronine on the NHS in the Nottinghamshire area to levothyroxine and to refer the more complex cases to an NHS Endocrinologist. The NHS will only support continued prescribing in exceptional circumstances and only under recommendation from an NHS Endocrinologist.

It would be appreciated if you could explain to your patients that liothyronine is no longer available on NHS and if they wish to start/continue treatment they will have to obtain it privately.

Yours sincerely,

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Chair of the Nottinghamshire Area Prescribing Committee