

09 March 2021

Dear sir or madam

Requests for GPs to prescribe over the counter (OTC) preparations

I am writing to all local opticians because over the last few months GP surgeries in the county have received several requests to prescribe preparations which may be bought over the counter.

NHS England has issued [guidance on conditions for which over the counter items should not routinely be prescribed in primary care](#) (Gateway approval number 07851). NHS Kernow supports this advice and supports surgeries in Cornwall to be guided by it.

Section 4.3.4 deals with dry eyes/ sore tired eyes and for the treatment of blepharitis we would direct patients to the [nhs.uk patient treatment page](#). We would not usually expect general practice to be asked to prescribe for either of these conditions.

We appreciate your understanding and support in this matter.

Yours faithfully

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