

Position statement on the prescribing of probiotics

NHS Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Integrated Care Board (ICB) does not support the prescribing of any probiotics for any indication.

This is in line with NHS England's [policy guidance](#) on conditions for which over the counter items should not be routinely prescribed in primary care, which states that there is insufficient clinical evidence to support the prescribing of probiotics within the NHS for the treatment or prevention of diarrhoea of any cause.

In 2018, the Advisory Committee on Borderline Substances (ACBS) [reviewed the probiotic products](#) VSL#3 and Vivomixx. The committee concluded that the evidence did not sufficiently demonstrate that the items are clinically effective. Both products were removed from part XV of the Drug Tariff. Therefore, there are no probiotics currently included in the Drug Tariff.

Recommendations

- Review all prescribing of probiotics and discontinue all probiotics on prescription.
- Patients may choose to purchase probiotics over the counter, but please advise about the lack of evidence of clinical benefit.

References

1. NHS England policy guidance. [Conditions for which over the counter items should not be prescribed routinely in primary care.](#)
2. UK Medicines Information. [Probiotics VSL#3 and Vivomixx have been removed from the Drug Tariff, following review by Advisory Committee on Borderline Substances \(ACBS\).](#)