

<b>Policy Statement:</b>	<b>Gluten- free foods</b>
<b>Status</b>	<b>Not funded</b>

**Mid-Essex Clinical Commissioning Group does not routinely fund prescribing/supply of Gluten free foods. This restriction does not apply to gluten free enteral feeds or oral nutritional supplements (sip feeds).**

**Prescribing/supply of gluten-free foods at NHS expense has been assessed as a Low Clinical Priority by Mid Essex CCG and will not be funded unless there are exceptional clinical circumstances.**

Gluten-free foods are widely available to purchase e.g. from supermarkets, community pharmacies or via on-line retailers. Coeliac UK ([www.coeliac.org.uk](http://www.coeliac.org.uk)) produces a food and drink directory which is available free to members and for £10 when sold. Following the Eatwell Plate model for balanced eating will provide a gluten-free diet without need for any specialist dietary foods, simply by choosing naturally GF carbohydrate containing foods (rice, potatoes, polenta, quinoa, soya etc) as part of a healthy balanced diet.

Applications for funding in clinically exceptional circumstances can be made to the Exceptional Case Team but should only be made where the patient demonstrates true clinical exceptionality.

Further information on applying for funding in exceptional clinical circumstances can be found by clicking the link below and opening the documents in the following folders

- Individual Funding Request and Exceptional Cases Policy
- Patient Information
- Exceptional Cases Funding Proforma

<http://midessexccg.nhs.uk/your-nhs/medicines-management/service-restriction-policies>

<b>Title</b>	Gluten free foods Service Prescribing Policy Statement
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<b>Author</b>	Paula Wilkinson, Chief Pharmacist, MECCG
<b>Approved by</b>	Mid Essex CCG Board
<b>Date approved</b>	January 2016
<b>Next review date</b>	January 2021

<b>Previous version</b>	<b>Key Change</b>
N/A	New policy statement
January 2016	Minor amendment – does not apply to gluten free enteral or sip feeds
March 2018	Policy reviewed, following DoH statement (Feb 2018) – no changes made.

