Gateway reference number 18118

Healthy Start vitamins Q&A – arrangements from 1st April 2013

1. **What do these changes mean for NHS trusts and foundation trusts?**

   From April 2013, it will be the responsibility of the commissioning bodies (NHSCB, CCGs, and where LAs provide child health clinics) to arrange the provision of Healthy Start vitamins. At present NHS Trusts and Foundation Trusts provide vitamins and they could continue to do so through the contract and service specification they have with their commissioners.

2. **Does this affect how the Healthy Start vitamins can be ordered?**

   As before both the women's and children's vitamins will be ordered through NHS Supply Chain via the website www.supplychain.nhs.uk. Each area may have one or a couple of people who are responsible for ordering the vitamins and making sure each distribution point has sufficient stock.

3. **Which organisations can claim reimbursement from Department of Health for vitamins given to Healthy Start families?**

   Further guidance will be issued in the New Year.

4. **Does this change affect where NHS Supply Chain will deliver to?**

   NHS Supply Chain's published price per bottle is based on the costs of delivering to NHS premises only. The number of individual premises within each trust that it will deliver to will depend on that trust's agreement with NHS Supply Chain, and its geographical layout.
   Where local arrangements are made for distribution via Children's Centres, pharmacies etc, NHS Supply Chain will deliver Healthy Start vitamins to non-NHS premises. The following restrictions apply:

   - A minimum order value of £150 will apply to each order and the order must be for delivery to one drop off point only.
   - A delivery charge of £8.50 (which DH will not be able to reimburse) will apply to each order.
   - All deliveries will be subject to a pre-planned delivery schedule agreed in advance with the end user and NHS Supply Chain, prior to any deliveries being made.
   - There is a restriction of one order per month per organisation.
   - Returns are not permitted.

5. Why have LA's been included as they are not responsible for 0-5's until 2015?

Local Authorities will be responsible for the provision of Healthy Start vitamins, if they are providing or commissioning child health clinics. Initially LAs may provide child health clinics. From 2015 the responsibility for commissioning child health clinics will move to LAs and therefore they will have a dual role of commissioning and/or providing clinics.

There are already some LAs involved in the provision of Healthy Start vitamins locally and by including them from the outset it will ensure that LAs who are already involved in this work will continue to be fully engaged in delivering this function, while not imposing any additional burdens on other authorities. This will also provide an opportunity for LAs to develop stronger links with the CCGs / NHSCB from April 2013.