*[Patient name] [Practice name]*

*[Patient address1] [Practice Address 1]*

*[Patient address 2] [Practice Address 2]*

*[Patient address 3] [Practice Address 3]*

*[Postcode] [Postcode]*

*[Date]*

Dear [PATIENT],

**Changes to your flange extender / retention strip prescription**

In line with current national and local guidelines, we have carried out a review for all patients who are prescribed accessories for their stoma.

Adhesive flange extenders or retention strips offer additional security, usually around the outer edge of a stoma appliance. They are not required for every patient with a stoma and may mask other stoma related issues.

They can be useful if you have abdominal creases that prevent your stoma appliance sticking, or where a larger area is required to secure your appliance, for example, if you have a parastomal hernia. They should not be used to ‘patch up leaks’, as this can lead to sore skin.

The maximum number of flange extenders or retention strips prescribed per month has changed, depending on the type of stoma you have:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Stoma Type | Daily Number | Maximum Monthly Number to be Prescribed |
| Ileostomy | 0-2 | 60 |
| Colostomy | 0-6 | 180 |
| Urostomy | 0-2 | 60 |

Needing to use more than the recommended number of flange extenders or retention strips may indicate a stoma related issue that your stoma nurse can help with.

This prescription change has been agreed with local stoma care specialist nurses and is in line with current local guidance. We have made this change to your repeat prescription ready for your next order.

**If you are experiencing leakage, odour or sore skin around your stoma, please contact your stoma nurse.**

Their contact details are:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Dacorum, Watford and St Albans & Harpenden Localities | Telephone: 01923 217489 (Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm) | Email: westherts.stomacare@nhs.net |
| Hertsmere Locality | Telephone: 07901 118827(Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm) | Email:nclicb.stomanurse@nhs.net  |
| Stoma office for hospital and community care service, Lister hospital, Stevenage | Telephone: 01438 284133(Monday-Friday, 7am-4.30pm) | Email:stomacare.enh-tr@nhs.net  |

**The ideal aim is to have such a good bag fit that stoma accessories are rarely needed.  Please note that if you are prescribed more than one stoma accessory product, you may receive more than one letter for each of your different products.**

Yours sincerely,