*[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 stoma gauze swab 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.

There are some stoma accessories which are clinically required for your stoma care routine, however, there are several types of accessories that may be masking, rather than solving stoma related issues.

The latest guidance means that the gauze swabs that you may have used to help clean your stoma and surrounding skin, will no longer be available on prescription. You should receive complimentary non-sterile dry wipes with your appliance prescription from your chosen supplier (dispensing appliance contractor or community pharmacy). Alternatively, the stoma and surrounding skin can be cleaned using warm water and a woven cloth (or good quality paper towels).

This prescription change has been agreed with local stoma care specialist nurses and is in line with current local guidance.

**If you are experiencing leaks, odour or sore skin around your stoma, please contact your local 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,