

Appendix B – Key Terms

Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG): A clinical commissioning group (CCG) commissions (purchases) most of the hospital and community NHS services in the local areas for which they are responsible. Commissioning involves deciding what services are needed and ensuring they are provided. There are 211 CCGs in total and In 2013/14 they were responsible for about 60% of the total NHS budget.[1]

Clinician: A clinician can be defined as a medical professional such as general practitioner (GP), endocrinologist, psychiatrist etc who specialises in engaging directly with a patient as part of their diagnosis, treatment and ongoing care.

Brand: The definition of a brand in respect of medications is the original manufacture of a drug.

Generic: A drug product that is comparable to a branded drug product in dosage form, strength, quality and performance characteristics, and intended use. Generic drugs can be legally produced if a patent has expired, or for drugs which have never been patented. The expiration of a patent removes the monopoly of the patent holder on drug sales licensing. Generic drugs marketed without brand names are generally less expensive than brand-name drugs.

Guidelines: A document with the aim of guiding decisions and criteria regarding diagnosis, management, and treatment in specific areas of healthcare.

Statement: Medical consensus on a particular aspect of medical knowledge at the time the statement is made that a representative group of experts agree to be evidence-based and knowledge.

Overt Hypothyroidism: A clinical syndrome of hypothyroidism associated with elevated TSH and decreased serum levels of T4 or T3.

Subclinical Hypothyroidism: A serum thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH) level above the upper limit of normal despite normal levels of serum free thyroxine.

Primary Hypothyroidism: A condition of decreased hormone production by the thyroid gland.

Thyroid hormone resistance: Resistance to thyroid hormone is a condition in which some body tissues do not respond normally to the thyroid hormones thyroxine and triiodothyronine

Endocrinologist: A clinician trained in managing/diagnosing and treating disorders of the endocrine system – thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal glands, hypothalamus, pituitary, pineal body, ovaries, testes and pancreas

Deiodination: The removal of iodine from a compound (especially from iodothyronine - thyronine with iodine added)

Iodothyronine deiodinases are a subfamily of deiodinase enzymes important in the activation and deactivation of thyroid hormones.

Receptors: Groups of specialised cells that can detect changes in the environment called stimuli.

Deaminated: The process by which amino acids are broken down if there is an excess of protein intake.

Iodothyroacetates: Small, deaminated thyroid hormones, which have agonistic effects (a substance which initiates a physiological response when combined with a receptor) to classical thyroid hormones (iodothyronines).

Thyronamines: Thyronamine refers both to a molecule, and to derivatives of that molecule: a family of decarboxylated and deiodinated metabolites of the thyroid hormones thyroxine (T4) and 3,5,3'-triiodothyronine (T3).

Plasma: the colourless fluid part of blood, lymph, or milk, in which corpuscles or fat globules are suspended

Enzyme: A substance produced by a living organism which acts as a catalyst to bring about a specific biochemical reaction