



## Clinical Thresholds

<b>Condition or Treatment</b>	Urticaria
<b>Commissioning Threshold</b>	<p>Patients with common urticaria should be assessed and managed in primary care in the first instance.</p> <p><b>Referral to Secondary Care Services</b>          Patients should be referred to secondary care if they have unusual or complicated urticaria (e.g. suspected urticarial vasculitis or hereditary angio-oedema), or common urticaria which has failed to respond to conservative management.</p> <p><b>Prior to referral</b>          Referral of patients with common urticaria should only be made if the cause of the urticaria has been investigated and rectified where possible by avoidance of causative agent (e.g. medications, food) or treatment with anti-histamines or prednisolone (see guidelines above).</p>
<b>Referral Guidance</b>	Referral guidance only.
<b>Effective from</b>	April 2013
<b>Summary of evidence / rationale</b>	<p>Acute urticaria is much more common than chronic urticaria. Acute urticaria affects 1 in 6 people at some point in their lives, compared with 1 in 1000 people for chronic urticaria.</p> <p>Acute urticaria is more common in children, in women (aged 30-60 years) and in people with atopy.</p> <p>The incidence of urticaria in children is estimated to be around 8 per 1000 person-years. Prevalence rates for chronic urticaria vary from 1-5 in every 1000 people.</p> <p>Angio-oedema can occur concurrently in some cases of acute urticaria and in up to 50% of cases of chronic urticaria.</p> <p>Hospital admissions for urticaria, angio-oedema and anaphylaxis have increased over the last 10 years, reflecting an overall increase in the incidence of these conditions.</p>
<b>Date</b>	November 2014
<b>Review Date</b>	November 2016
<b>Contact for this policy</b>	Dr Bruce Willoughby GP / Governing Member <a href="mailto:Brucewilloughby@nhs.net">Brucewilloughby@nhs.net</a>

**References:**

1. Clinical Knowledge Summaries Urticaria updated 2011  
<http://cks.nice.org.uk/urticaria#!topicsummary>
2. Urticaria  
<http://app.mapofmedicine.com/mom/164/searchResults.html?paginate=20&search-type=mtm&start=0&freeText=urticaria&Search.x=0&Search.y=0>