

Policy Statement

Prescribing of therapeutic clothing (excluding compression garments) on NHS prescriptions

Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group does not support the prescribing of therapeutic clothing such as allergy clothing, hernia support clothing and Stoma clothing (excluding support belts).

This policy excludes compression garments recommended by Lymphoedema specialists and also excludes support belts recommended by stoma specialists.

Prescribing of therapeutic clothing is a low clinical priority due to the limited evidence of any benefit, therefore, prescribing of these are not supported.

Recommendations:

- Do not initiate new prescriptions for therapeutic clothing
- Existing patients already prescribed therapeutic clothing should have this reviewed and stopped
- If patients wish to use therapeutic clothing they should be advised that they can be purchased directly from the manufacturer or over-the-counter (OTC) with the support of the community pharmacist

A variety of silk and cotton therapeutic garments are now listed in the drug tariff for the management of a variety of conditions including eczema, psoriasis, thrush and lichen sclerosis.

Brands include Skinnies®Silk range, Dermasilk®, Comfifast®, Clinifast®, Dreamskin® however this policy would also include other brands as they become available.

The evidence for the use of these items is poor with only case studies or small scale trials carried out over a short duration. NICE guidance on treatment of atopic eczema in children (2007) makes no recommendations about the use of such garments in the management of eczema and whilst the British Association of Dermatologists states these items may be useful gives no firm guidance.

Hernia support clothing and stoma clothing such as Boxers, Knickers & Vests are not supported for prescribing. Brands include Vanilla blush clothing, Orione clothing, CUI international clothing, AMI medical clothing, Respond healthcare clothing, however, this policy would also include other brands as they become available.

This does not include hernia support belts which can be prescribed or stoma support belts that can only be prescribed on recommendation from a stoma specialist.

Providers commissioned to provide services on behalf of Mid-Essex CCG are reminded that they are required to follow the Mid-Essex CCG formulary and prescribing guidance as detailed in their contract (Medicines Management Service Specification).

See Mid-Essex CCG website – Medicines Optimisation for all prescribing guidance.

<http://midessexccg.nhs.uk/your-health-services/medicines-optimisation>

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Previous version	Key Changes
-	New guidance
December 2016	Minor change- excludes hernia support belts which can be prescribed
April 2017	Minor change – exclusion of compression garments extended to not just hosiery
August 2017	Minor change – inclusion of stoma clothing to not prescribing, addition of brands of therapeutic clothing
February 2018	Minor change – clarification / update of brands from latest Drug Tariff.