

Commissioning Statement for THE PRESCRIBING OF TOPICAL TREATMENTS FOR FUNGAL NAIL INFECTIONS (ONYCHOMYCOSIS)

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Prescribing of topical treatments for fungal nail infections (onychomycosis) on FP10 prescriptions within Norfolk and Waveney ICS is recommended as

BLACK : NOT COMMISSIONED. NO NHS PRESCRIBING IN NORFOLK AND WAVENEY ICS

Background

Onychomycosis is an infection of the nail by fungi that include dermatophytes, non-dermatophyte moulds and yeasts (mainly Candida species).

Where antifungal treatment is indicated, systemic treatments are more effective¹.

- There is lack of evidence of efficacy for topical agents in nail lacquers and solutions are expensive. Amorolfine nail lacquer is available over-the-counter (OTC) for mild cases and for the treatment of a maximum of two nails.
- There are no published studies on the efficacy of salicylic acid (Phytex®) in fungal nail infection and therefore its use cannot be recommended.
- The cure rates for topical antifungal preparations amorolfine (Loceryl®, Curanil®, Omicur®) and tioconazole (Trosyl®) do not compare favourably with those obtained with systemic drugs.
- There is insufficient evidence of efficacy to advocate combined topical and systemic therapy.
- Amorolfine 5% nail lacquer and tioconazole 28% cutaneous solution are non-formulary and should not be prescribed.

This position is supported by NHS England as part of conditions for which over the counter items should not routinely be prescribed in primary care.

Recommendations

- Topical antifungal treatment for fungal nail infections should not be initiated or prescribed for any new patient.
- All patients prescribed topical antifungal treatments for fungal nail infections treatments should be reviewed, with a view to discontinuing prescribing, and advised that they can be purchased over the counter from pharmacies.
- Note: the combined use of topical and systemic therapy is not advocated.

Details of locally agreed formulary can be found in [Netformulary](#)

Prescribing information

Providers commissioned to provide services on behalf of Norfolk and Waveney ICB are reminded that they are required to follow the local joint formulary and prescribing guidance, as detailed in the medicines management service specification of their contract.

Monitoring of Prescribing

Data on the use of these treatments will be supplied monthly as part of your data pack. If you have any queries, please email nwicb.medsqueries@nhs.net with 'service restriction policy' in the subject line.

References

- <http://www.prescrip.info/-amorolfine-5-nail-lacquer/finish/184-amorolfine-5-nail-lacquer/891-bulletin-55-amorolfine-5-nail-lacquer>

Title	Commissioning Statement for topical treatments for fungal nail infections (onychomycosis) Treatment Prescribing in Norfolk and Waveney ICS
Description of policy	<i>To inform healthcare professionals</i>
Scope	<i>Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care System</i>
Prepared by	Norfolk and Waveney ICB Medicines Optimisation Team
Impact Assessment (Equalities and Environmental)	<p><i>Please indicate impact assessment outcome:</i></p> <p><i>Positive impact</i></p> <p><i>Adverse impact - low - action plan completed as per guidance</i></p> <p><i>Adverse impact - medium - action plan completed as per guidance</i></p> <p><i>Adverse impact - high - action plan completed as per guidance</i></p> <p><i>No impact</i></p> <p>No policy will be approved without a completed equality impact assessment</p>
Other relevant approved documents	<p>Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: Guidance for CCGs, June 2019</p> <p>https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/items-which-should-not-routinely-be-prescribed-in-primary-care-v2.1.pdf</p>
Evidence base / Legislation	<p>Level of Evidence:</p> <p><i>A. based on national research-based evidence and is considered best evidence</i></p> <p>B. mix of national and local consensus</p> <p><i>C. based on local good practice and consensus in the absence of national research based information.</i></p>
Dissemination	Is there any reason why any part of this document should not be available on the public web site? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes / No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Approved by	<i>Norfolk & Waveney Therapeutics Advisory Group (TAG) (Date)</i>
Authorised by	<i>Norfolk & Waveney Drug Integrated Care Board on behalf of the ICS (Date)</i>
Review date and by whom	Medicines Optimisation Team
Date of issue	Oct 2023

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0.1	MO Team	To support prescribing in primary care	Oct 2023