NHS
Suffolk and
North East Essex

Position Statement for Medicines of Low Value

SILK GARMENTS

Summary

The Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board (SNEE ICB) does not support the prescribing of silk garments, in line with NHS England's national guidance on medicines which should no longer be prescribed due to a lack of robust evidence of clinical effectiveness or there are significant safety concerns.[1]

All silk garments are classed as "Double Red" i.e., no prescribing in primary or secondary care

There are no patient exceptionalities identified

Due to limited evidence supporting the efficacy of silk clothing for the relief of eczema, the NIHR HTA programme commissioned the CLOTHES trial, which aimed to examine whether adding silk garments to standard eczema care could reduce eczema severity in children with moderate to severe eczema, compared to use of standard eczema treatment alone: The CLOTHing for the relief of Eczema Symptoms trial (CLOTHES trial). Overall the trial concluded that using silk garments for the management of eczema is unlikely to be cost-effective for the NHS.

DEPRESCRIBING ADVICE

- **Deprescribe silk garments for all patients (including children) who have these products on repeat or acute**
- Patients should be advised of the lack of robust evidence to support its ongoing use
- Patients wishing to continue using these products should be directed to pharmacies for purchasing over the counter (OTC)
- Patient should be made aware that these cannot be prescribed by GP practices under any circumstances
- Where the products have been started by dermatologists, patients should be advised that dermatologists are in support of the guidance and are no longer recommending the use of silk garments for new and existing patients

Produced by the SNEE ICB Medicines Optimisation Teams (MOT) in collaboration with East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust (ESNEFT) and West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust (WSFT) version 1.0

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NEW PATIENTS

- **Do not prescribe silk garments under any circumstances**
- Patients should be advised of the lack of robust evidence to support its ongoing use
- Patients should be made aware that these cannot be prescribed by GP practices under any circumstances
- Requests from secondary care must not be fulfilled and advice sought for alternative products where required if appropriate

FURTHER SUPPORT

- National Patient Information Leaflets have been developed and can be supplied to patients to help support the deprescribing of these products (click here)
- Patients who wish to seek further clarification can be directed to Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) via:
    - E-mail: sneeicb.pals@nhs.net
    - Telephone: 0800 389 6819

Reference

1. NHS England and NHS Clinical Commissioners. Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: Guidance for CCGs. s.l. : NHS England, June 2019.

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