

Prescribing of topical treatments for fungal nail infections is not supported

Thurrock CCG and Basildon and Brentwood CCG do not recommend the prescribing of topical treatments for fungal nail infections (onychomycosis).

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, and they are not cost effective. 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[®] Curanail[®], 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 in Thurrock CCG and Basildon and Brentwood CCG.

Providers commissioned to provide services on behalf of Thurrock CCG and Basildon and Brentwood CCG are reminded that they are required to follow the local joint formulary and prescribing guidance, or relevant Medicines Management agreement.

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

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