

Prescribing of Lidocaine 5% medicated plasters is not supported outside of their licensing

Thurrock CCG, and Basildon and Brentwood CCG do not support the prescribing of lidocaine 5% plasters (Versatis® or Ralvo®) outside their licensing.

Lidocaine 5% medicated plasters are indicated for the symptomatic relief of neuropathic pain associated with previous herpes zoster infection (post-herpetic neuralgia, PHN) in adults.

Recommendations

- Do not initiate treatment with lidocaine plasters in primary care. They are suitable for GP continuation following Pain Specialist Team recommendation in line with the licensed indication.
- Review efficacy and tolerability of lidocaine plasters 2 – 4 weeks after initiation and STOP if ineffective.
- Treatment should be reassessed at least six-monthly and an attempt made to either reduce the amount or size of plasters needed to cover the painful area, or to extend the plaster-free period
- Under no circumstances should there be open-ended GP prescribing of lidocaine patches without review date.
- Review lidocaine plasters being used for any other indication.

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

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.

Position Statement No.	48
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References	NHS England guidance on 'Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care' (June 2019): https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/items-which-should-not-routinely-be-prescribed-in-primary-care-v2.1.pdf
Acknowledgements	Mid Essex CCG Medicines Management Team
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Author	Medicines Management Team
Approved by	Basildon and Brentwood CCG: Prescribing Subgroup, Patient Quality and Safety Committee, Board Thurrock CCG: Medicines Management and Safety Group, Patient Quality and Safety Committee, Transformation and Sustainability Committee, Board
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