

Prescribing of alprostadil cream (Vitaros®) for erectile dysfunction is not supported

Thurrock CCG and Basildon and Brentwood CCG do not support the prescribing of alprostadil cream (Vitaros®) for erectile dysfunction.

Alprostadil cream (Vitaros®) for erectile dysfunction, was launched in the UK in June 2014, it is non formulary and **should not** be prescribed in Thurrock CCG and Basildon and Brentwood CCG.

Vitaros® contains 300 microgram alprostadil in a cream formulation for topical application to the penis. Alprostadil is chemically identical to prostaglandin E1, the actions of which include vasodilatation of blood vessels in the erectile tissues of the corpora cavernosa and increase in cavernosal artery blood flow, causing penile rigidity.

After application of alprostadil cream, the onset of action is within 5 to 30 minutes and the effect lasts for 1 to 2 hours after dosing. Localised penile irritation, including burning, pain and erythema, was the most commonly observed adverse reaction, but was generally transient and mild to moderate in severity. Adverse reactions may also occur in partners of patients using topical alprostadil, so use of latex condoms is advised and must be ensured for sexual intercourse with women who are of childbearing potential, pregnant or lactating.

Sildenafil is the **only treatment for erectile dysfunction on the joint prescribing formulary**. The patent on sildenafil expired in June 2013 and prescribing sildenafil generically can generate significant savings compared with prescribing by brand name. Please refer to the policy for the prescribing of PDE5 inhibitors for the treatment of erectile dysfunction.

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.	2
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Acknowledgements	Mid Essex CCG
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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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