

## Prescribing of therapeutic clothing (excluding compression hosiery) on NHS prescriptions

Thurrock and Basildon and Brentwood CCG do not support the prescribing of therapeutic clothing such as allergy clothing and hernia support clothing, and this position is supported by NHS England.

Prescribing of therapeutic clothing is a low clinical priority due to the limited evidence of any benefit, therefore, prescribing of these are not supported.

### Recommendations:

- Do not initiate new prescriptions for therapeutic clothing.
- Existing patients already prescribed therapeutic clothing should have this reviewed with a view to stopping where appropriate.
- If patients wish to use therapeutic clothing they should be advised that they can be purchased directly from the manufacturer, retail outlets or over-the-counter (OTC) with the support of the community pharmacist.

A variety of silk and cotton therapeutic garments are now listed in the Drug Tariff for the management of a variety of conditions including eczema, psoriasis, thrush and lichen sclerosis.

Brands include Skinnies®Silk range, Derasilk®, Comifast®, Clinifast®, Dreamskin® however this policy would also include other brands as they become available.

The evidence for the use of these items is poor with only case studies or small scale trials carried out over a short duration. NICE guidance on treatment of atopic eczema in children (2007) makes no recommendations about the use of such garments in the management of eczema and whilst the British Association of Dermatologists states these items, however gives no firm guidance.

**Hernia support clothing such as Boxers, Knickers and Vests are not supported for prescribing e.g. Vanilla blush clothing.**

This position (with regards to silk garments) 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

<b>Position Statement No.</b>	34
<b>Title</b>	Prescribing of therapeutic clothing (excluding compression hosiery) on NHS prescriptions
<b>References</b>	NHS England guidance on 'Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care' (June 2019): <a href="https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/items-which-should-not-routinely-be-prescribed-in-primary-care-v2.1.pdf">https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/items-which-should-not-routinely-be-prescribed-in-primary-care-v2.1.pdf</a>
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