

Prescribing of minocycline is not supported

Thurrock CCG, and Basildon and Brentwood CCG do not support the prescribing of minocycline due to a lack of robust evidence of clinical effectiveness and due to significant safety concerns, and this position is supported by NHS England.

Minocycline is a tetracycline antibiotic that can be used for many indications but is mainly used in primary care for acne. However, there are various safety risks associated with its use.

NICE CKS advises minocycline is not recommended for use in acne as it is associated with an increased risk of adverse effects such as drug induced lupus, skin pigmentation and hepatitis.

A PrescQIPP CIC review found there is no evidence to support the use of one tetracycline over another in terms of efficacy for the treatment of acne vulgaris and alternative once daily products are available.

Recommendations

- Do not initiate minocycline in any new patients.
- Patients who are currently prescribed minocycline for acne vulgaris should be reviewed, with a view to switching to a formulary alternate:
 - Lymecycline capsules 408mg OD
 - Doxycycline capsules 100mg OD
 - Oxytetracycline tablets 500mg BD
 - If tetracyclines are poorly tolerated or contraindicated: Erythromycin (as tablets) 500mg BD

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.	49
Title	Prescribing of minocycline is not supported
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
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