

## MID AND SOUTH ESSEX MEDICINES OPTIMISATION COMMITTEE (MSEMOC)

### TOPICAL TREATMENTS FOR FUNGAL NAIL INFECTIONS

#### **BLACK: NOT RECOMMENDED FOR PRESCRIBING IN PRIMARY, COMMUNITY OR SECONDARY CARE**

Mid and South Essex CCGs do not support 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 effective.**

- There is a 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 (for example, Phytex<sup>®</sup>) in fungal nail infection and therefore its use cannot be recommended.
- The cure rates for topical antifungal preparations amorolfine (for example, Loceryl<sup>®</sup>, Loceryl Curanail<sup>®</sup>, Omicur<sup>®</sup>) and tioconazole (for example, Trosyl<sup>®</sup>) 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 Mid and South Essex CCGs.

Providers commissioned to provide services on behalf of Mid and South Essex CCGs are reminded that they are required to follow the local joint formulary and prescribing guidance, as detailed in the medicines management service specification of their contract.

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>References</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ PrescQIPP Bulletin 117:<br/><a href="https://www.prescqipp.info/umbraco/surface/authorisedmediasurface/index?url=%2fmedia%2f1272%2fb117-drop-list-42.pdf">https://www.prescqipp.info/umbraco/surface/authorisedmediasurface/index?url=%2fmedia%2f1272%2fb117-drop-list-42.pdf</a></li> <li>▪ PrescQIPP Bulletin 55 (superseded by Bulletin 117)</li> </ul> |
| <b>Acknowledgements</b> | Mid and South Essex CCGs Medicines Management Teams   |
| <b>Version</b>          | 1.0   |
| <b>Author</b>           | HCPMSEMOC working group   |
| <b>Approved by</b>      | MSEMOC; MSE Joint Committee   |
| <b>Date Approved</b>    | December 2020; January 2021   |
| <b>Review Date</b>      | December 2025 or sooner if subject to any new updates nationally  |