

MID AND SOUTH ESSEX MEDICINES OPTIMISATION COMMITTEE (MSEMOC)

POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE 5% SOLUTION (e.g. MOLLUDAB[®], MOLLUTREX[®]) FOR MOLLUSCUM CONTAGIOSUM

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

Mid and South Essex CCGs do not support the prescribing of potassium hydroxide 5% solution (for example, Molludab[®] or Mollutrex[®]) for molluscum contagiosum, a viral skin infection caused by the molluscum contagiosum virus (MCV).

Molluscum contagiosum is a self-limiting viral skin infection. The NICE Clinical Knowledge Summaries (CKS) scenario states that treatment of molluscum contagiosum is **not usually recommended**.

Advice for self care:

- Reassure people that molluscum contagiosum is a self-limiting condition. Spontaneous resolution usually occurs within 18 months.
- Explain that lesions are contagious, and it is sensible to avoid sharing towels, clothing, and baths with uninfected people such as siblings.
- Encourage people not to scratch the lesions. If it is problematic, consider treatment to alleviate the itch.
- Exclusion from school, gym, or swimming is not necessary.

Treatment is usually only recommended for older children and adults in cases where the spots are particularly unsightly and affect quality of life. However, Molludab[®] and Mollutrex[®] are available for 'over the counter' (OTC) purchase for these purposes, and should not be prescribed due to limited clinical evidence to support the use.

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.

References	NICE Clinical Knowledge Summaries (CKS) scenario for molluscum contagiosum: https://cks.nice.org.uk/molluscum-contagiosum#!scenario
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