

MID AND SOUTH ESSEX MEDICINES OPTIMISATION COMMITTEE (MSEMOC)

PRESCRIBING OF EFLORNITHINE (e.g. VANIQA®) FOR TREATMENT OF FACIAL HIRSUTISM

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

Mid and South Essex CCGs do not support the prescribing of Eflornithine 11.5% cream (e.g. Vaniqa®) for the routine use for the treatment of facial hirsutism

The treatment of hirsutism is a cosmetic procedure which is of a low clinical priority for funding in Mid and South Essex CCGs. If hirsutism is mild and does not significantly interfere with the person's quality of life, consider no additional treatment. Hirsutism is not usually associated with any significant medical abnormality.

Eflornithine 11.5% cream (e.g. Vaniqa®) offers very little benefit for the management of facial hirsutism. There is limited evidence for efficacy and patient satisfaction with eflornithine.

Recommendations

- Promote self-funded cosmetic treatments for reduction in hair growth or hair removal (e.g. shaving, plucking, depilatory cream, laser treatment, electrolysis) as the primary options for the majority of persons with hirsutism.
- It is important that the patient is properly assessed and underlying causes addressed (such as weight reduction if obese) before pharmacological therapy is considered as hirsutism can result from serious medical conditions or from medication (e.g. ciclosporin, glucocorticoids, minoxidil, phenobarbitone, phenytoin, combined oestrogen-androgen hormone replacement therapy).

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PrescQIPP DROP-List. Bulletin 57 available at https://www.prescgipp.info/ ▪ Berkshire West Prescribing Committee Policy Statement APC1
Acknowledgements	Mid and South Essex CCGs Medicines Management Teams
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