



MID AND SOUTH ESSEX MEDICINES OPTIMISATION COMMITTEE (MSEMOC)

THERAPEUTIC CLOTHING (EXCLUDING COMPRESSION GARMENTS)

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

Mid and South Essex CCGs do not support the prescribing of therapeutic clothing such as silk garments due to limited evidence of clinical effectiveness. This position is supported by NHS England guidance on items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care.

Prescribing of therapeutic clothing is a low clinical priority due to the limited evidence of any benefit, therefore, prescribing of these are not supported. 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 may be useful gives no firm guidance.

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, Dermasilk®, Comfifast®, Clinifast®, Dreamskin® however this policy would also include other brands as they become available.

Recommendations:

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

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	NHS England and NHS Improvement Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: Guidance for CCGs (Version 2, 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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