

MID AND SOUTH ESSEX MEDICINES OPTIMISATION COMMITTEE (MSEMOC)

ALPROSTADIL CREAM (VITAROS®) FOR ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION BLACK: NOT RECOMMENDED FOR PRESCRIBING IN PRIMARY, COMMUNITY OR SECONDARY CARE

Mid and South Essex CCGs do not support the prescribing of alprostadil cream (Vitaros®) for erectile dysfunction.

Alprostadil cream (Vitaros®) for erectile dysfunction, was launched in the UK in June 2014, it is non-formulary and **should not** be prescribed in Mid and South Essex.

Vitaros® contains 300 microgram alprostadil in a cream formulation for topical application to the penis. Alprostadil is chemically identical to prostaglandin E1, the actions of which include vasodilatation of blood vessels in the erectile tissues of the corpora cavernosa and increase in cavernosal artery blood flow, causing penile rigidity.

After application of alprostadil cream, the onset of action is within five to 30 minutes and the effect lasts for 1-2 hours after dosing.

Localised penile irritation, including burning, pain and erythema, was the most commonly observed adverse reaction, but was generally transient and mild to moderate in severity. Adverse reactions may also occur in partners of patients using topical alprostadil, so use of latex condoms is advised and must be ensured for sexual intercourse with women who are of childbearing potential, pregnant or lactating.

Independent guidance on the safety and efficacy of Vitaros® is lacking, and full-text reports on published trials are not available. There are no direct head-to-head comparisons to other treatments. Indirect comparisons suggest alprostadil is generally less effective than PDE5 inhibitors & intracavernosal alprostadil. Alprostadil cream costs £10 per dose, substantially higher cost than generic alternative treatments for ED such as sildenafil and tadalafil.

PDE5 inhibitors such as sildenafil are effective in approximately 80% of patients with erectile dysfunction, generic sildenafil is the first line treatment for erectile dysfunction.

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"> NICE Evidence Summary New Medicines: Erectile dysfunction: Alprostadil cream (Dec 2014) http://www.nice.org.uk/advice/esnm50 (accessed 22.04.2021) Summary of Product Characteristics (Vitaros®) (accessed 22.04.2021) UKMi New Drugs online https://www.ukmi.nhs.uk/ (accessed 22.04.2021) European Association of Urology. K. Hatzimouratidis, I. Eardley, F. Giuliano et al. Guidelines on Male Sexual Dysfunction: Erectile dysfunction and premature ejaculation. March 2018 (accessed 22.04.2021) Hackett G, Dean J, Kell P, Price D, Ralph D, Speakman M, Wylie K for the British Society for Sexual Medicine "Guidelines on the management of Erectile Dysfunction" 2018 (accessed 22.04.2021)
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