

SILK garments (Dermasilk®, Dreamskin®, Skinnies Silk®) for eczema or atopic dermatitis

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee does not recommend the prescribing of SILK Garments for eczema or atopic dermatitis.

BLACK

The NHS England document 'Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: Guidance for CCGs' contains the following advice.¹

Recommendation	Advise CCGs that prescribers in primary care should not initiate silk garments for any patient. Advise CCGs to support prescribers in de-prescribing silk garments in all patients and, where appropriate, ensure the availability of relevant services to facilitate this change.
Exceptions and further recommendations	No routine exceptions have been identified.
Category	Products of low clinical effectiveness, where there is a lack of robust evidence of clinical effectiveness or there are significant safety concerns.
Spend in Pan Mersey	£57,000 annually
Background and Rationale	Silk garments are typically prescribed for eczema or dermatitis. These products are knitted, medical grade silk clothing which can be used as an adjunct to normal treatment for severe eczema and allergic skin conditions. Four brands of knitted silk garments are currently listed as an appliance in part IX A in the Drug Tariff and are relatively expensive. The PrescQIPP review on silk garments states that the evidence relating to their use is weak and is of low quality. 2 In addition, due to limited evidence supporting the efficacy of silk clothing for the relief of eczema, the NIHR HTA programme commissioned the CLOTHES trial, which aimed to examine whether adding silk garments to standard eczema care could reduce eczema severity in children with moderate to severe eczema, compared to use of standard eczema treatment alone: The CLOTHing for the relief of Eczema Symptoms trial (CLOTHES trial) .3 Overall the trial concluded that using silk garments for the management of eczema is unlikely to be cost-effective for the NHS.
Further Resources and Guidance for CCGs	Specialist Pharmacy Service silk garments evidence review PrescQIPP CIC Drugs to Review for Optimised Prescribing – silk garments Patient information leaflets Pan Mersey Elasticated Viscose Stockinette ('Viscose') Garments Statement
Note: Patients who are not eligible for treatment under this statement may be considered on an individual basis where their GP or consultant believes exceptional circumstances exist that warrant deviation from the rule of this policy. In this situation, follow locally defined processes.	

APC board date: 21 Oct 2020

This recommendation has been designated suitable for inclusion on the Pan Mersey APC static list and so will only be reviewed if significant new evidence becomes available

APC administration provided by [Midlands and Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit](#)

Prescribing policy statement

Version: 2.0

STATIC

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Effectiveness

The CLOTHES Trial, published in April 2017, was the first large, independent RCT to have evaluated silk garments for the management of eczema. The trial was an observer-blind RCT of 300 children with moderate to severe eczema where participants were randomised to receive standard eczema care plus silk clothing or standard care alone. After six months, there was no evidence of a difference between the groups in eczema severity (Eczema Area and Severity Index score) assessed by research nurses.

The results of this trial suggest that silk garments are unlikely to provide additional clinical or economic benefits over standard care for children with moderate to severe eczema.³

Safety

Not applicable

Cost

Range of costs of silk garments:

£10.24 (eye mask) - £83.41 (pyjamas)⁴

In the 12 months, Oct 2018 to Sep 2019, across Pan Mersey the prescribing costs for silk garments was £57,000⁵

Patient factors

Not Applicable.

Prescribing information

Silk garments are not recommended for prescribing due to poor evidence of their benefits over standard care.

References

1. NHS Clinical Commissioners. [Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: Guidance for CCG Version 2, June 2019](#). NHS England and NHS Improvement. Accessed 27/11/2019.
2. PrescQIPP Bulletin 160 v2.0 [Silk and antimicrobial garments February 2017](#) . Accessed 27/11/2019.
3. Thomas KS, Bradshaw LE, Sach TH, Cowdell F, Batchelor JM, Lawton S, et al. [Randomised controlled trial of silk therapeutic garments for the management of atopic eczema in children: the CLOTHES trial](#). Health Technol Assess 2017;21(16)
4. On line [Drug Tariff](#) available at (accessed 27/11/2019).
5. EPACT data, accessed 29/11/2019.