

ELASTICATED VISCOSE STOCKINETTE ('Viscose') Garments (CliniFast[®], Comfifast Easywrap[®], Skinnies Viscose[®], Tubifast 2-way stretch[®])

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of ELASTICATED VISCOSE STOCKINETTE ('Viscose') Garments following specialist recommendation for skin conditions.

AMBER following specialist recommendation

Elasticated viscose stockinette ('Viscose') garments are used for wet or dry wrapping and for dressing retention in a variety of skin conditions such as eczema, atopic dermatitis, psoriasis and burns.

They have a two way stretch, are comfortable to wear under clothing and act as a barrier to stop scratching and protect clothes from greasy emollients.

Four brands of viscose garments are currently listed in the Drug Tariff; CliniFast[®], Comfifast Easywrap[®], Skinnies Viscose[®] and Tubifast 2-way stretch[®]¹.

Please note this statement does not apply to Skinnies AM[®] which are impregnated with anti-microbial agents. These are currently non-formulary and should not be prescribed.

Elasticated viscose stockinette comes in a range of garments, e.g. body suits, vests, leggings and gloves, and in a variety of sizes.

Key Messages:

NICE guidance² CG57 (December 2007) on the treatment of atopic eczema in children recommends that viscose garments should not be used as first-line treatment for atopic eczema in children and they should only be initiated by a healthcare professional trained in their use.

Viscose garments are a more costly option than retention bandages and the tubular version of stockinette, so should only be selected if other options are unsuitable or if they offer an advantage that would support concordance and treatment efficacy.³

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.

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Effectiveness

NICE guidance on the management of atopic eczema in under 12-year-olds discusses the use of bandages and medicated dressings. The evidence base was found to be either lacking, or of poor quality with some conflicting results. However, the guideline development group did feel there was a role for these treatments in some cases, and made the following recommendation: whole-body dry bandages (including tubular bandages and garments) should not be used as first-line treatment for atopic eczema in children and should only be initiated by a healthcare professional trained in their use.³

Safety

Patients who use emollients should be advised not to smoke or go near naked flames, and warned about the easy ignition of clothing, bedding, dressings, and other fabric that have dried residue of an emollient product on them. Washing clothing or fabric at a high temperature may reduce emollient build-up but not totally remove it.⁴

Cost

Range of costs of viscose garments:

£2.97 (mittens) - £26.36 (leggings)¹

In the 12 months from November 2019 to October 2020, across the Pan Mersey area the prescribing costs for viscose garments was £116,000.⁵

Clinifast[®] and Comfifast[®] are the least expensive brands based on garment price.

Patient factors

Viscose garments are generally washable and reusable. The manufacturer's instructions regarding washing and drying differ see table below.

Product	Manufacturer	Washable?	Washing and drying instruction	Number of washes/when to replace
Clinifast garments [®]	Clinisupplies Ltd	Yes	Wash on a 60°C wash - this allows the emollients to be removed at each wash. Tumble dry on a low / cool setting to prevent shrinkage ⁶ .	Can be machine washed up to 30 times ⁶ .
Comfifast Easy wrap suits [®]	Synergy Health (UK)	Yes	Washable and can be machine washed. ⁷	Can be machine washed up to 30 times. ⁷
Skinnies [®]	Skinnies UK	Yes	Machine washable and can go in the tumble dryer ⁸	Tested to withstand more than 50 washes ⁸
Tubifast 2-way stretch garments [®]	Molnlycke Health Care Group	Yes	Wash at 60°C and tumble dry on a low heat ⁹	Can be reused up to 10 times. ¹⁰

Prescribing information

Any prescribing requests for garments from specialists should include the ages for childrens' garments, sizes for adult garments and colours (where applicable). Advise patients that garments can be washed and reused multiple times (see table above for individual product information). It is normally recommended that a maximum of two sets of garments is prescribed at any one time. If used every day with greasy emollients these garments may need washing daily, in which case three sets may need to be prescribed – one to wash, one to wear and one spare. Prescribers will need to base the frequency of any repeat prescriptions on how often that individual patient needs to wash garments and the product type prescribed. Also consider whether patient may have just been recommended to use for a short time period.

References

1. On line Drug Tariff available at <http://www.drugtariff.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/> . Accessed 9th March 2020.
2. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence CG57 [Atopic eczema in under 12s: diagnosis and management](#) , December 2007.
3. Prescqiip Bulletin B148 [Wound Care Support bandages and stockinette](#) , August 2016.
4. MHRA Drug Safety Update [Emollients: new information about risk of severe and fatal burns with paraffin-containing and paraffin-free emollients](#) , December 2018.

5. EPACT data accessed 20/01/2021
6. Clinisupplies Ltd [Clinifast garments frequently asked questions](#). Accessed 9th March 2020
7. Medical Dressings Website UK [Comifast Easywrap Garments key benefits](#) . Accessed 9th March 2020.
8. Skinnies UK Facts about Skinnies document <http://www.skinniesuk.com/Viscose-Facts> . Accessed 9th March 2020.
9. Molnlycke Tubifast Garment Product Sheet <https://medicalmonks.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Tubifast-Garments-Product-Sheet.pdf> . Accessed 9th March 2020.
10. Personal communication with Molnlycke Health Care Group on 5th March 2017.