

## PATIROMER powder for oral suspension (Veltassa® ▼) for emergency treatment of hyperkalaemia

**The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of PATIROMER powder for oral suspension (Veltassa® ▼) for emergency treatment of life-threatening hyperkalaemia in adults in accordance with NICE TA623.**

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Patiromer is licensed for the treatment of hyperkalaemia in adults<sup>1</sup>. NICE technology appraisal [TA623](#) recommends patiromer as an option for treating hyperkalaemia in adults only if used:

- > in emergency care for acute life-threatening hyperkalaemia alongside standard care *or*
- > for people with persistent hyperkalaemia and stages 3b to 5 chronic kidney disease or heart failure<sup>2</sup> (see separate [amber initiated statement](#)).

Acute hyperkalaemia can be fatal and treating acute life-threatening hyperkalaemia in hospital is established clinical practice. Patiromer has been shown to reduce serum potassium but has an onset of action of 4 to 7 hours<sup>1</sup> so, although it could be useful for people with hyperkalaemia needing treatment in emergency care, it must be used alongside standard care.

Treatment must be initiated according to defined treatment algorithms for the management of acute hyperkalaemia and supervised by a consultant physician specialising in acute medicine, nephrology or cardiology.

### Costing information

NICE have not assessed the resource impact for the use of patiromer in emergency care specifically. Short term use as an adjunct in emergency care is unlikely to exceed 4 days. Any significant resource impact will likely depend on whether ongoing treatment is required for chronic hyperkalaemia (see separate [amber initiated statement](#)).

Drug	Regimen	Pack cost (NHS list price)	Cost per patient for a 4-day course (ex VAT) <sup>3</sup>
Patiromer	8.4g - 16.8g daily	£172.50 (1 x 30 pack)	£23 - £46
Calcium resonium	15g three times daily	£82.16 (1 x 300g pack)	£49 - £82.16

This table does not imply therapeutic equivalence of drugs or doses.

### References

1. Vifor Fresenius Medical Care Renal Pharma UK Ltd. Summary of Product Characteristics: [Veltassa 16.8g powder for suspension](#). 06 June 2019. Accessed 24 December 2019.
2. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. Patiromer for treating hyperkalaemia. [NICE Technology Appraisal 623](#); 13 February 2020. Accessed 24 February 2020.
3. NHS Business Services Authority. Dictionary of Medicine and Devices ([dm+d Browser](#)). Accessed online 17 March 2020.

**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.