

Policy Statement; Prescribing of topical treatments for fungal nail infections is not supported

Mid-Essex Clinical Commissioning Group does not recommend prescribing topical treatments for fungal nail infections (onychomycosis).

Onychomycosis is an infection of the nail by fungi that include dermatophytes, non-dermatophyte moulds and yeasts (mainly Candida species).

Where antifungal treatment is indicated, systemic treatments are more effective¹.

- There is lack of evidence of efficacy for topical agents in nail lacquers and solutions are expensive. Amorolfine nail lacquer is available over-the-counter (OTC) for mild cases and for the treatment of a maximum of two nails.
- There are no published studies on the efficacy of salicylic acid (Phytex®) in fungal nail infection and therefore its use cannot be recommended.
- The cure rates for topical antifungal preparations amorolfine (Loceryl®, Curanil®, Omicur®) and tioconazole (Trosyl®) do not compare favourably with those obtained with systemic drugs.
- There is insufficient evidence of efficacy to advocate combined topical and systemic therapy.
- Amorolfine 5% nail lacquer and tioconazole 28% cutaneous solution are non-formulary and should not be prescribed in Mid-Essex.

Providers commissioned to provide services on behalf of Mid-Essex CCG are reminded that they are required to follow the Mid-Essex CCG formulary and prescribing guidance as detailed in their contract (Medicines Management Service Specification).

See Mid-Essex CCG website – Medicines Optimisation page for all prescribing guidance:

<http://midessexccg.nhs.uk/your-health-services/medicines-optimisation>

1. <http://www.prescqipp.info/-amorolfine-5-nail-lacquer/finish/184-amorolfine-5-nail-lacquer/891-bulletin-55-amorolfine-5-nail-lacquer>

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Previous version	Key Changes
December 2013	Monphytol removed