

Policy Statement; Prescribing of sodium hyaluronate intra-articular injections is not supported

Mid-Essex Clinical Commissioning Group does not commission intra-articular injections of hyaluronic acid and its derivatives for osteoarthritis of the knee

NICE guidance Osteoarthritis: Care and management in adults [CG177]¹ February 2014
1.5.13 Do not offer intra-articular hyaluronan injections for the management of osteoarthritis.

The British National Formulary (January 2015)² states
'Hyaluronic acid and its derivatives' are available for osteoarthritis of the knee, but are not recommended'.
'Sodium hyaluronate (Durolane[®], Euflexxa[®], Fermathron[®], Hyalgan[®], Orthovisc[®], Ostenil[®], RenehaVis[®], Suplasyn[®], Synocrom[®], Synopsis[®]) or hylan G-F 20 (Synvisc[®]) is injected intra-articularly to supplement natural hyaluronic acid in the synovial fluid. These injections may reduce pain over 1–6 months, but are associated with a short-term increase in knee inflammation'.

Hyaluronic acid and its derivatives –examples of products above-are non-formulary within Mid-Essex CCG and therefore must not be used for any NHS services commissioned by the CCG.

Sodium hyaluronate (SportVis[®]) is also licensed for the relief of pain and optimisation of recovery following ankle sprain, and for the relief of chronic pain and disability associated with tennis elbow. **The use of this product is not commissioned.**

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 NICE [CG177] February 2014

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