

Policy Statement; Prescribing of Vibro-Pulse for cellulitis and venous leg ulcers is not supported

Mid-Essex Clinical Commissioning Group does not support the prescribing of Vibro-Pulse® single use disposable cover and limb straps.

Vibro-Pulse® uses cycloidal vibration (CV) therapy and is promoted as a therapy for cellulitis, venous leg ulcers and lower limb oedema. The company claim that stimulating the microcirculation in the infected area can enhance potential delivery of antibiotics to the tissues and reduce the associated oedema.

The recommended regimen is one 30-minute treatment three times a day, a disposable cover being required each time the device is used. The device itself is not prescribable on FP10 and is provided on loan from the company at no cost. The disposable covers are included in the drug tariff at a cost of £15 for a pack of three (one days treatment).

Trent Medicines Information Service (March 2014)¹ states:

‘Few published papers are available for CV therapy. One clinical trial has been published of Vibro-Pulse® in the management of cellulitis. No clinical trials have been identified of CV therapy for other indications.

The data available is for a small number of patients and from non-blinded or retrospective studies.

A Cochrane review of treatments for cellulitis concluded that there was insufficient evidence on CV therapy to form a conclusion about the efficacy of such treatment. There are currently insufficient data on the chronic use of Vibro-Pulse® for venous leg ulcers or other wounds to recommend its use. Available data are inadequate to assess any impact of Vibro-Pulse® on healing rates or calculate cost-benefits.’

Mid-Essex CCG does not support the prescribing of Vibro-Pulse® disposable covers and limb straps. Any requests for GP prescribing should be referred back to the requesting clinician. Patients may wish to self-fund Vibro-Pulse® disposable covers and limb straps. If they choose to buy these appliances and are classed as chronically sick or disabled, they can complete and sign a written declaration, provided by the supplier, stating that they are entitled to buy these appliances VAT free.

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.midlandsmedicines.nhs.uk/content.asp?section=3&subsection=26&pageldx=1>

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