

Prescribing of Gauze Swabs for use in Stoma Care Position Statement

Hertfordshire and West Essex ICB **does not** support the prescribing of gauze swabs for use in stoma care.

Recommendation

- Gauze swabs should not be prescribed for use in stoma care (for existing and new patients).

Rationale

- There is no clinical rationale for use of gauze swabs in routine stoma care.
- Dispensing appliance contractors (DACs) and community pharmacies provide complimentary non-sterile dry wipes to stoma patients with their appliance prescription.

Background

- Historically, stoma patients may have been prescribed gauze swabs to clean the stoma and surrounding skin.
- The stoma and surrounding skin can be cleaned using warm water and a woven cloth (or good quality paper towels).

Stoma Care Nurse Team Contact Details:

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West Essex: Stoma care nursing team	Telephone: 01279 827072 (Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm)	Email: paht.stomacare@nhs.net

References:

- Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) <https://psnc.org.uk/services-commissioning/essential-services/dispensing-of-appliances/>
- An overview of the new arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and urology appliances and related services in primary care (Department of Health) https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130105061727/http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/@sta/@perf/documents/digitalasset/dh_110726.pdf
- NHS Prescription Services, NHSBSA https://contactcentreservices.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/selfnhsukokb/AskUs_PS/en-gb/7799/appliances-dispensing-processing/17441/do-i-need-to-endorse-a-claim-for-wipes-and-disposal-bags

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Developed by	Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation Team, Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board Stoma Care Clinical Nurse Specialists, West Hertfordshire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust and The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust.
Date ratified	V1 July 2020 (Medicines Optimisation Clinical Leads Group). V2 July 2021 (Medicines Optimisation Clinical Leads Group). V3 May 2023 (Medicines Optimisation & Prescribing Delivery and Implementation Group). V4 Updated SWH Hertsmere contact information.
Review date	The recommendation is based upon the evidence available at the time of publication. This recommendation will be reviewed upon request in the light of new evidence becoming available.



