

Prescribing of Stoma Discharge Solidifying Agents Position Statement

Hertfordshire and West Essex ICB recommends:

1st Line: Gel-X[®] capsules (Oakmed Ltd), maximum monthly quantity of 280 per patient (2 boxes of 140 capsules)*

2nd Line: Independence[®] Absorbent Strips (ProSys International Ltd), maximum monthly quantity of 400 per patient (2 boxes of 200 strips)*

Quantity required may be considerably more if used for a **fistula. This should be communicated by the local stoma care nurse.*

Recommendations

- For all patients, **Gel-X[®] capsules** should be prescribed as first line option. Maximum monthly quantity of **280** per patient to be prescribed (2 boxes of 140 capsules).
- **Independence[®] Absorbent Strips** should be prescribed as second line option. Maximum monthly quantity of **400** per patient to be prescribed (2 boxes of 200 strips).
- If ordering in excess of recommended quantities, patients should be referred to their local stoma care nurse for review.
- Authorisation for discharge solidifying agents must come from a stoma care nurse.
- Discharge solidifying agents should not be used for urostomy patients.

Rationale

- Stoma bags may be emptied, on average, up to six times a day.
- Maximum monthly quantity of 400 required for Independence Absorbent Strips, as 2 strips may need to be added to the bag at a time, to achieve the desired output consistency.
- Using more than the recommended amount could indicate a stoma related issue that requires a clinical review.
- If used for a urostomy, discharge solidifying agents will block the drainable tap outlet on the device, therefore should not be used for these patients.

Background

- Discharge solidifying agents are added to the bottom of an empty bag to absorb moisture from stoma output, reducing risk of leakage and the need for more frequent bag changes and emptying.
- Discharge solidifying agents should only be used for stoma patients with high watery output.
- Using discharge solidifying agents may mask causes of a high output stoma. Therefore, dietary measures and drug treatment strategies should be addressed before these agents are prescribed. This should be done by the stoma care nurse prior to requesting prescriptions.



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:

1. PrescQIPP Stoma and Continence: Adhesive Removers 2.0 (March 2018)
2. Stoma Toolkit Adults, February 2018; NHS Birmingham
3. Stoma Care Products Formulary Guide, September 2011; NHS Buckinghamshire

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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.

