

Position Statement; The prescribing of alprostadil cream for erectile dysfunction is not supported.

Castle Point and Rochford and Southend Clinical Commissioning Groups do not support the prescribing of alprostadil (Vitaros®) cream for erectile dysfunction as it is not a cost effective option.

- Alprostadil cream (Vitaros®) contains 300mcg of alprostadil in a cream formulation for topical application to the penis. Alprostadil is chemically identical to prostaglandin E1, the actions of which include vasodilatation of blood vessels in the erectile tissues of the corpora cavernosa and increase the cavernosal artery blood flow, causing penile rigidity.
- First line treatment for erectile dysfunction is sildenafil tablets, second line treatment is vardenafil tablets. A maximum of four tablets should be prescribed each month. The first and second line PDE-5 formulary options are significantly more cost effective than alprostadil cream.
- SLS criteria no longer apply to sildenafil and therefore any man suffering from erectile dysfunction can be prescribed this on the NHS if clinically appropriate.
- SLS criteria still apply to the prescribing of vardenafil (Levitra®), tadalafil (Cialis®) or avanafil (Spedra®). If a patient who does not meet SLS criteria requests a PDE-5 inhibitors that isn't sildenafil they should be prescribed it on a private prescription if clinically appropriate.

Providers commissioned to provide services on behalf of Castle Point and Rochford and Southend CCGs are reminded that they are required to follow the Castle Point and Rochford and Southend CCGs formulary and prescribing guidance as detailed in their contract (Medicines Management Service Specification). See Southend and Castle Point and Rochford CCGs websites – Medicines management for all prescribing guidance.

Reviewed and adapted for use from Mid Essex CCG Prescribing Policy Statements

Approved for use in Castle Point & Rochford and Southend CCGs	Drugs and Therapeutics Committee 1 st March 2017
Title	Alprostadil (Vitaros®) cream v 1.0