

Botulinum Toxin A for the management of focal hyperhidrosis

NHS Devon

Commissioning policy

The routine commissioning of botulinum toxin A for the management of hyperhidrosis is only accepted in Devon for patients with severe axillary hyperhidrosis. Patients must have:

- a Hyperhidrosis Disease Severity Scale (HDSS) score of 3 or 4 despite at least six weeks of topical aluminium chloride and self-management strategies,
AND
- a resting sweat production of at least 100mg/5minutes (per axilla).

Rationale for the decision

Botulinum toxin A is recommended in the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Clinical Knowledge Summary for hyperhidrosis as a treatment option to be provided by dermatologists where self-care measures and topical drug treatments are ineffective or not tolerated. The marketing authorisation for botulinum toxin A limits use to severe axillary hyperhidrosis. No specific criteria to define severe hyperhidrosis are included within the summary of product characteristics for botulinum toxin A products or the NICE Clinical Knowledge Summary. The threshold of a resting sweat production of at least 100mg/5minutes (per axilla) has been proposed by dermatologists with peninsula wide agreement.

Guidance notes on exceptionality

Where the circumstances of treatment for an individual patient do not meet the criteria described above exceptional funding can be sought. Individual cases will be reviewed by the appropriate panel of the ICB upon receipt of a completed application from the patient's GP, consultant or clinician. Applications cannot be considered from patients personally.

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