Brimonidine gel (Mirvaso®) for the symptomatic treatment of facial erythema of rosacea in adult patients

NHS Devon

Commissioning policy

The routine commissioning of brimonidine 0.5% gel (Mirvaso®) is not accepted in Devon for the symptomatic treatment of facial erythema of rosacea in adult patients.

The Formulary Interface Group should not include this in locally defined treatment recommendations.

Rationale for the decision

Rosacea is a chronic relapsing condition affecting facial skin; brimonidine gel works superficially reducing erythema through direct cutaneous vasoconstriction.

Available efficacy and safety data is limited to 12 months. Placebo controlled clinical trials found that brimonidine gel is effective at reducing redness. However, the effect is short lived, requiring ongoing daily application. No robust head-to-head trials with active comparator treatments were identified. No improvement on quality of life was found in short term studies.

There is uncertainty about the potential uptake of brimonidine gel and resulting future budget impact in Devon; economic evaluation raised doubts over its cost effectiveness.

Although it is acknowledged that brimonidine is the only licensed product in the UK that directly targets the persistent facial erythema of rosacea, it was considered that the benefit that brimonidine brings does not represent good value for money and therefore is not a priority for the investment of local NHS funds.

Guidance notes on exceptionality

This general policy does not replace clinical judgement on the appropriate treatment of an individual patient.

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