

Imiquimod 3.75% (Zyclara®) for actinic keratosis

NHS Devon

Commissioning policy

The routine commissioning of imiquimod 3.75% (Zyclara®) is not accepted in Devon for the treatment of actinic keratosis. The Formulary Interface Group should not include this in locally defined treatment recommendations.

Rationale for the decision

Clinical trial evidence has shown Zyclara® to be more effective than placebo in the treatment of actinic keratosis. The efficacy of Zyclara® relative to other products has not been established in head-to-head trials. Informal comparison would suggest that the rate of complete clearance is towards the lower end of that achieved with existing therapies.

The rate of adverse skin reactions is similar to imiquimod 5% which would appear to be associated with greater efficacy.

There is also uncertainty whether the rate of clearance seen in clinical trials would be replicated in general use, since compliance may be affected by the patients' need to resume application of the cream following a two-week break in the treatment course.

Although Zyclara® appears to offer better value for money than some existing products when used to treat large areas of skin affected with actinic keratosis, this is dependent upon the patient obtaining two weeks of treatment from one sachet of cream. There is potential for inadvertent error in application that could lead to an additional sachet being needed to complete each treatment which would reduce the cost effectiveness of the treatment.

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.

Date of publication:	Version:
14.10.2013	Policy agreed by Northern, Eastern and Western Devon CCG and South Devon and Torbay CCG Policy adopted by NHS Devon CCG on 01.04.2019 Policy adopted by NHS Devon ICB on 01.07.2022