

**South East London Area Prescribing Committee  
Position Statement**

<b>Reference</b>	<b>PS-026</b>
<b>Intervention</b>	<b>Silk garments for dermatological conditions (such as eczema or dermatitis)</b>
<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>June 2020</b>
<b>Date of Issue</b>	<b>July 2020</b>
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>GREY- not recommended for routine prescribing in South East London.</b>
<b>Further Information</b>	<p>Silk garments are typically prescribed for eczema or dermatitis. These products are knitted, medical grade silk clothing which can be used as an adjunct to normal treatment for severe eczema and allergic skin conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Silk garments are not recommended for the treatment of any of the dermatological conditions outlined in the South East London Area Prescribing Committee Community Dermatology Guidelines.</li> <li>· Silk garments are included in the updated guidance from NHS England for low priority medicines that should not be routinely prescribed in Primary Care.</li> <li>· The PrescQIPP document on silk garments states that the evidence relating to their use is weak and is of low quality.</li> <li>· An NIHR commissioned trial (CLOTHES) concluded that using silk garments for the management of eczema is unlikely to be cost-effective for the NHS.</li> </ul> <p><b>New patients:</b> Do not initiate silk garments for any new patients, including in inpatient or outpatient settings.</p> <p><b>Existing patients:</b> All patients currently receiving silk garments in primary care should be reviewed to facilitate deprescribing.</p> <p>A <b>patient information leaflet</b> has been developed by PrescQIPP to support discussions with patients and can be accessed at:  <a href="https://www.prescqipp.info/media/4159/patient-information-changes-to-silk-garment-prescribing.pdf">https://www.prescqipp.info/media/4159/patient-information-changes-to-silk-garment-prescribing.pdf</a></p> <p>If alternative therapy is required, then refer to the Community Dermatology Guidelines.</p> <p>Review any guidelines in the Trusts that recommend the use of silk garments in line with its amended formulary status and NHS England guidance.</p>
<b>Shared Care/Transfer of care document required</b>	Not applicable
<b>Cost Impact for agreed patient group</b>	The total spend on silk garments between April 2019 - March 2020 across the 6 SEL boroughs was ~£58K.

<b>Usage Monitoring &amp; Impact Assessment</b>	<b>Trusts:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Do not initiate silk garments in inpatient and outpatient settings.</li> <li>· Monitor non-formulary requests.</li> </ul>
	<b>SEL CCG Borough Teams:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Monitor ePACT 2 data and support deprescribing.</li> <li>· Review exception reports from GPs if inappropriate requests to prescribe are made to primary care.</li> </ul>
<b>Evidence Reviewed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: Guidance for CCGs, NHS Clinical Commissioners and NHS England: <a href="https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/items-which-should-not-routinely-be-prescribed-in-primary-care-v2.1.pdf">https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/items-which-should-not-routinely-be-prescribed-in-primary-care-v2.1.pdf</a> last accessed: 31/12/19</li> <li>· PrescQIPP Bulletin 160- Silk and antimicrobial garments: <a href="https://www.prescqipp.info/media/1659/b160-silk-and-antimicrobial-garments-20.pdf">https://www.prescqipp.info/media/1659/b160-silk-and-antimicrobial-garments-20.pdf</a> last accessed 31/12/19</li> <li>· Dermatology Guidelines for GPs in Bromley, Southwark &amp; Lambeth June 2019 <a href="https://www.southwarkccg.nhs.uk/members-zone/Commissioning/medicines-management/prescription-guidance/Dermatology/Dermatology%20Guidelines%20-%20%20July%20%202019.pdf">https://www.southwarkccg.nhs.uk/members-zone/Commissioning/medicines-management/prescription-guidance/Dermatology/Dermatology%20Guidelines%20-%20%20July%20%202019.pdf</a> last accessed 31/12/19</li> <li>· National Institute of healthcare research (NIHR). Randomised controlled trial of silk therapeutic garments for the management of atopic eczema in children: the CLOTHES trial. April 2017. Available</li> </ul>

**NOTES:**

- a) Area Prescribing Committee recommendations, position statements and minutes are available publicly via the [APC webpages](#).
- b) This Area Prescribing Committee recommendation has been made on the cost effectiveness, patient outcome and safety data available at the time. The recommendation will be subject to review if new data becomes available, costs are higher than expected or new NICE guidelines or technology appraisals are issued.
- c) **Not to be used for commercial or marketing purposes. Strictly for use within the NHS.**