

South Central Priorities Committee

(Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire East and Berkshire West PCTs)

Policy Statement 41a: Treatments for erectile dysfunction
[MOBBB Statement 47]

Clinical Executive decision: May 2011

Date of issue: May 2011

The South Central Priorities Committee (Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire, Berkshire East, Berkshire West, Buckinghamshire – MOBBB) has considered the evidence of clinical and cost-effectiveness, and the financial impact on the health economy of treatment for erectile dysfunction in adult patients and made the following recommendations:

1. Treatment with phosphodiesterase type-5 inhibitors (sildenafil, vardenafil and tadalafil) at the minimum effective dose is RECOMMENDED for the groups of patients identified in Health Service Circular (HSC) 1999/177¹ at a maximum frequency of dosing of two times per month using the drug with the lowest acquisition cost.

Phosphodiesterase type-5 inhibitors (sildenafil, vardenafil and tadalafil) are oral drugs that enable a penile erection with sexual stimulation. There is evidence for the effectiveness of these drugs in men with erectile dysfunction of varying causes. The effectiveness of individual drugs is comparable, and sildenafil has been shown to be cost-effective. Prescribers should note that the minimum pack size of some phosphodiesterase type-5 inhibitors is 4. *The comparative cost of PDE-5 inhibitors is provided in the table overleaf.*

2. Treatment with prostaglandin E1 intracavernosal injections and intra-urethral instillations is RECOMMENDED for groups of patients identified in HSC 1999/177 ONLY if oral phosphodiesterase type-5 inhibitors are contraindicated or ineffective. The maximum frequency of dosing is two times per month using the drug with the lowest acquisition cost.

Prostaglandin E1 is used in the treatment of erectile dysfunction when delivered locally into penile tissues. There is evidence for the effectiveness of intra-cavernosal injections of prostaglandin E1 in those unresponsive to oral drugs.

3. Treatment with vacuum erection devices is LOW PRIORITY in view of limited evidence for effectiveness and cost effectiveness.

Vacuum erection devices are mechanical devices for producing an erection that is sustained with the placement of a constricting band across the base of the penis. There is limited evidence for the effectiveness of these devices and no evidence of cost-effectiveness.

4. Treatment with penile implants is LOW PRIORITY in view of limited evidence for effectiveness and cost effectiveness and the high complication rate.

Penile implants can be surgically inserted into the penis for treating erectile dysfunction. There is limited evidence of effectiveness with a high proportion of patients having major complications.

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¹ Links to guidance: http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_4011860.pdf
http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_4011953.pdf

NOTES:

- Exceptional circumstances may be considered where there is evidence of significant health impairment and there is also evidence of the intervention improving health status.*
- This policy will be reviewed in the light of new evidence or new national guidance.*
- The MOBBB Priorities Committee Minutes and NHS Oxfordshire's policies can be viewed at <http://www.oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk/professional-resources/priority-setting/default.aspx>*

5. Treatment with psychosexual interventions is LOW PRIORITY in view of limited evidence for effectiveness and cost-effectiveness.

Psychosexual interventions such as counselling and psychotherapy comprise a group of techniques with limited evidence for effectiveness and no evidence of cost-effectiveness.

Cost of PDE-5 inhibitors (source: *Chemist and Druggist*, April 2011)

PDE-5 inhibitors	4 tab pack	8 tab pack
Sildenafil (Viagra) 25 mg	£16.59	£33.19
Sildenafil (Viagra) 50 mg	£21.27	£42.54
Tadalafil (Cialis) 10 mg	£26.99	
Tadalafil (Cialis) 20 mg	£26.99	£53.98
Vardenafil (Levitra) 10 mg	£14.08	£28.16
Vardenafil (Levitra) 20 mg	£23.48	£46.96

NOTES:

1. *Exceptional circumstances may be considered where there is evidence of significant health impairment and there is also evidence of the intervention improving health status.*
2. *This policy will be reviewed in the light of new evidence or new national guidance.*
3. *The MOBBB Priorities Committee Minutes and NHS Oxfordshire's policies can be viewed at <http://www.oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk/professional-resources/priority-setting/default.aspx>*