

## Medical devices and appliances not recommended and not commissioned for routine prescribing

The list below details devices split into 2 categories, items not recommended to be prescribed, including items suitable for self-care, and items only to be prescribed in specific circumstances.

The recommendation is:

- Items on list one should not be routinely commissioned and therefore not routinely prescribed in primary care.
- Items on list two should only be commissioned and prescribed for the treatment exceptions as listed.

This list is taken from PrescQIPP DROP-List (Drugs to Review for Optimised Prescribing) which incorporates medicines prescribed across the NHS that are considered low priority and poor value for money. It also incorporates medicines that could potentially be provided as self-care, with advice and support from community pharmacists.

### LIST ONE - Items not recommended for routine prescribing:

PrescQIPP - Summary of other areas DROP-List	Recommendations
Acne Treatment (Aknicare cream and lotion, Aknicare sr skin roller)	<b>Not recommended for routine prescribing (self-care).</b> Self-care recommended for topical benzoyl peroxide products.
Belladonna adhesive plaster	<b>Not recommended;</b> there is insufficient evidence to recommend the use of belladonna adhesive plasters. Prescribing on FP10 should be discontinued. Do not initiate new prescriptions for belladonna adhesive plasters.
Cycloidal vibration accessories (Vibro-pulse® accessories)	<b>Not recommended;</b> there is currently insufficient evidence to recommend the use of cycloidal vibration therapy.
Ear wax softening medical devices (Olive oil ear drops, sodium bicarb ear drops etc)	<b>Not recommended for routine prescribing (self-care).</b> Ear wax softening drops <b>should be purchased for self-care,</b> or obtained via NHS minor ailments schemes through participating community pharmacies.
Electrical stimulating wound device (Accel-heal®)	<b>Not recommended;</b> there is currently insufficient evidence to recommend the use of the Accel-Heal® electrical stimulating device.
Eye compress ( Hot eye compress, Meibopatch, MGDRx Eye Bag)	<b>Not recommended;</b> there is no evidence of additional benefit compared to using a clean flannel and warm water as an eye compress.
Head lice treatment devices	<b>Not recommended for routine prescribing.</b> Self-care recommended for treatments for head lice
Independence Wound protection/collection pouch	<b>Not recommended</b> – unless commissioning agreed at local level. High cost, used for haemodialysis patients to protect dressing and insertion site to enable showering whilst using

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	central venous catheter or tesio line. Renal unit can supply for patients.
Insert for female stress incontinence Contiform	<b>Not recommended;</b> there is currently insufficient evidence to recommend the use of the Contiform® device, or other intravaginal or intraurethral devices for female stress incontinence. NICE do not recommend their routine use.
Nasal products (The majority of prescribing is for saline nasal sprays, e.g. Sterimar®, Aqua maris®.)	<b>Not recommended for routine prescribing (self-care)</b> limited evidence favours a different treatment - Where indicated, large volume saline douches (saline irrigation) are thought to be more effective than saline nasal sprays. For managing the nasal symptoms of self-limiting conditions, saline nasal sprays can be purchased OTC for self-care by those that wish to try them.
Pelvic toning devices PelvicToner® • Kegel8® • Aquaflex®	<b>Not recommended;</b> there is no evidence of additional benefit compared to undertaking pelvic floor exercises alone. Those that wish to use pelvic toning devices may purchase them from a pharmacy or on-line.
Potassium hydroxide solution (For treating molluscum contagiosum) e.g Molludab Mollutrex	<b>Not recommended in primary care;</b> there is currently insufficient evidence of efficacy and a risk of side-effects. There are some circumstances where specialist referral is indicated, and a specialist may consider the use of potassium hydroxide solution

**LIST TWO -Items where prescribing should only be considered in specific circumstances:**

PrescQIPP - Summary of other areas DROP-List	Recommendations and treatment Exception/s
Auto inflation device (Otovent®)	Autoinflation may be considered during or after an active observation period following diagnosis of otitis media with effusion (OME, or glue ear), in children (from age 3) who are likely to cooperate with the procedure. Adults wishing to use the device to equalise the air pressure in the middle ear, e.g. for air travel, can purchase the device for self-care.
Bacterial decolonisation products (Prontoderm® foam and Prontoderm® nasal gel).	<b>Not recommended for routine use</b> Selection and prescribing of products for bacterial decolonisation should be in accordance with local guidelines as dependant on patterns of resistance.
Deodorants (ostomy)	<b>Not recommended for routine use;</b> deodorants should not be required. If correctly fitted, no odour should be apparent except when bag is emptied or changed. Household air-fresheners are sufficient in most cases. If odour is present at times other than changing or emptying, refer the individual for review. Prescribing may be considered where it is deemed to be

	<p>clinically necessary by a specialist stoma nurse, after individual review. The reason why household air-fresheners are insufficient must be documented.</p> <p>Do not add to repeat prescribing systems.</p>
Dry mouth products	<p><b>Not recommended for routine prescribing (self-care)</b></p> <p>Dry mouth products such as artificial saliva or salivary stimulants <b>should only be prescribed if simple measures alone have been inadequate</b>. These products can be purchased OTC.</p>
Inhalation solutions (Hypertonic sodium Chloride solutions for nebulisation)	<p>Use outside of hospital considered for those with cystic fibrosis (CF) or non-CF bronchiectasis, where <b>recommended by a specialist. Initiation must take place in secondary care</b> to ensure safety and suitability for the individual.</p>
Inspiratory muscle training devices POWERbreathe Medic, Threshold IMT, Ultrabreathe	<p><b>Not recommended</b> for routine use, but inspiratory muscle training may be considered in those with COPD, non-CF bronchiectasis and upper spinal cord injuries.</p>
Ostomy underwear	<p><b>Not recommended for routine use;</b> Specific ostomy underwear for general use is not needed. There is currently insufficient evidence to recommend routine use of support ostomy underwear for parastomal hernia prevention after stoma surgery and should only be prescribed where they have been recommended by a specialist stoma nurse for managing parastomal hernias in some individuals, e.g. those undertaking strenuous activities. Do not add to repeat prescribing systems.</p>
Plantar pressure offloading device BeneFoot® Medical Shoe Cellona® Shoe Kerraped® All Purpose Boot Kerraped® Plantar Ulcer Shoe System Liqua Care® Diabetic FlowGel Orthotics	<p>Ensure the use of plantar pressure offloading devices is part of a robust and clear local pathway for the prevention and management of diabetic foot problems.</p> <p>Plantar pressure offloading devices should only be prescribed after individual assessment by an appropriately skilled practitioner. This is likely to be via a foot protection service or a multidisciplinary foot care service.</p>