

Position Paper: Stoma Care Products: Deodorants and Air Fresheners

- Deodorants and air fresheners should not be prescribed
- Self-purchase of an household air freshener is sufficient in most cases
- If correctly fitted, no odour should be apparent except when bag is emptied or changed

BACKGROUND

Evidence to inform the prescribing of deodorants and air fresheners for colostomy and stoma patients is lacking. There is no good evidence to recommend a particular specialist stoma deodorant product over household products readily available from supermarkets. The following guidance is provided to assist in decision making around appropriate and cost effective prescribing in stoma care.

PRESCRIBING ADVICE

- Deodorants should not be prescribed
- Household air freshener is sufficient in most cases
- If correctly fitted, no odour should be apparent except when bag is emptied or changed
- If odour present at times other than changing or emptying – refer for review.
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PRESCRIBING COSTS

For the financial year of 2015/16 Blackpool CCG spent £6,348 on stoma deodorants.

Medicines Optimisation, August 2016
Blackpool CCG

Appendix 1 – Information for patients

The financial challenges facing the NHS and the importance of ensuring a fair use of resources for all patients has led to the decision to phase out the prescribing of stoma deodorants.

A number of factors were considered in coming to this decision. They included:

- These products are not clinically necessary
- Deodorants and air fresheners are widely available to buy
- The cost to the NHS of specialist deodorants; prices average £5 per bottle and range from £1 for 7.5ml to £9 for 125ml.

We hope this information is helpful in explaining the situation. If you have any queries or concerns, please contact the practice pharmacist based at your GP surgery.