

*Silk garments for patients with atopic skin conditions are not recommended on the NHS*

## Introduction

Three brands of knitted silk garments are currently listed in the Drug Tariff: *DermaSilk*<sup>®</sup>, *DreamSkin*<sup>®</sup> and *Skinnies*<sup>®</sup>. A wide range of products are available such as eye masks, socks, vests or pyjamas. The manufacturers claim silk clothing is less irritant than standard cotton clothing, protects the skin from moisture loss while remaining 'breathable' and may reduce excessive sweating.

## Prescribing Guidance

- There is currently only poor evidence from published trials to support prescribing of silk garments with atopic dermatitis/eczema. These trials so far have been small and limited to infants and children
- NICE guidance on treatment of atopic eczema in children (2007) made no recommendations about the use of such garments in the management of eczema, though they included one study in their review
- A systematic review of silk garments in atopic dermatitis in 2012 concluded that the evidence of effectiveness is weak and of low quality
- Wiltshire CCG does not support the prescribing of silk garments at NHS expense

## Wiltshire CCG Cost Impact

In the last 12 months, **33 Silk garments** have been prescribed in Wiltshire at a cost of **£2,236**

## References

1. Prescribable Medical Devices. Silk garments for eczema/atopic dermatitis. UKMi June 2014  
<http://www.midlandsmedicines.nhs.uk/filestore/SilkGarments.pdf>
2. NICE Clinical Guideline 57 December 2007. Atopic eczema in children, accessed via  
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG57>
3. BNF 70
4. Drug Tariff – July 2016