

## SPECIALIST DRESSINGS FOR HAEMODIALYSIS PATIENTS

### Medicines Management Team Advisory Summary

*Waterproof dressings to cover haemodialysis lines are not considered necessary by the Dialysis specialists so their use is not recommended*

- *Specialised dressings are being promoted for use by renal patients*
- *Whilst these might be helpful, Dialysis specialists do not have evidence of their effectiveness and they do not endorse their use*
- *Use of additional dressings can often lead to skin irritation or excess moisture collection, increasing the risk of infection*

#### Introduction

- Catheters are crucial to dialysis so there are strict guidelines in place for their use and care, including how the exit site is dressed to help avoid exit site infections.
- Patients are advised to keep the exit site dry at all times and are instructed they should not shower, swim or bathe in such a manner as to submerge the exit site below the waterline.
- A semipermeable dressing is used to protect the exit site from infections. This is changed weekly or more frequently as necessary when they attend for dialysis
- In some cases, specialist dressings have been requested such as Independence®

#### Formulary Status

VAP Dressings are NOT on formulary. If requested, suggest patients to discuss with their dialysis unit

#### Recommended Actions

- Please review patients who are receiving these dressings on prescription
- Stop if appropriate
- Check with Dialysis unit for a list of options, in case patient requests them

#### Prescribing Guidance

- If prescribed, these dressings can be dispensed by any pharmacy or appliance contractor
- Please refrain from using standard ordering forms as patients may potentially be being directed to an specific supplier. This is NOT legal without individual patient consent
- Prescribing cost: **VAP1 £114.12 - VAP2 £121.85 per pack of 10**

#### Wiltshire CCG cost impact

Over **£10,000** has been spent in 50 prescriptions for VAP dressings in the last 12 months