

## Commissioning Statement

<b>Treatment</b>	<p><b>Silk garments</b> e.g DermaSilk® DreamSkin® Skinnies Silk® Skintoskin®</p>
<b>For the treatment of</b>	<p>Silk garments are knitted, medical grade silk clothing which can be used as an adjunct to normal treatment for severe eczema and allergic skin conditions.</p>
<b>Commissioning position</b>	<p>Calderdale CCG does not routinely commission the use of silk garments.</p> <p>The clinical evidence to support the use of silk garments in atopic eczema/dermatitis is limited.</p> <p>North Kirklees CCG/Greater Huddersfield CCG/Wakefield CCG/Calderdale CCG/Bradford City CCG/Bradford Districts CCG/Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven CCG</p>
<b>Date effective from</b>	<p>March 2019</p>
<b>Policy to be reviewed by</b>	<p>March 2022</p>
<b>Background information</b>	<p>Three of the brands stated above (DermaSilk®, DreamSkin®, and Skinnies Silk®) contain knitted medical grade silk that have been treated to remove the natural gum 'sericin'. The fibre is then coated with an antibacterial in order to inhibit bacterial and fungal growth on the fabric [1, 2].</p> <p>Manufacturers claim that silk garments are "less irritant than standard cotton clothing, protects the skin from moisture loss while remaining 'breathable' and may reduce excessive sweating" [2].</p> <p>Skintoskin® products contain cotton and seaweed extracts with silver salts. Manufacturers claim that "cotton is extremely well tolerated by the skin, silver gives a strong antibacterial and anti-fungal effect and seaweed extracts (algae) have a calming, irritation relieving effect on the skin" [2].</p> <p>A wide range of products are available within the four brands for both adults and children [2, 3].</p> <p>NHSE had made a draft recommendation to stop the routine prescribing of silk garments as part of the <a href="#">national consultation</a> which closes 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019</p>

Silk Garments March 2019

Approved at Quality Committee 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019

**Summary of evidence/rationale**

There is little evidence to recommend the use of silk garments for eczema and atopic dermatitis; published trials have been small and limited to infants and children [2].

NICE guidance on the diagnosis and management of atopic eczema in under 12's indicates that healthcare professionals should use a stepped approach for managing atopic eczema in children. This means tailoring the treatment step to the severity of the atopic eczema. This guidance does not include a recommendation for the use of silk clothing [2, 4].

Findings from a trial conducted by The National Institute for Health Research concluded that silk clothing is not very effective. "Six months of wearing special silk clothing has no effect on objective measures of child eczema severity, infection rates or medication use" [5]. Despite there being "no clinical improvements in atopic eczema" - 70% of families were satisfied with the garments; suggesting they provide some benefit as comfortable clothing for those with atopic eczema [5].

This British Association of Dermatologists patient information leaflet suggests that silk or cotton garments may be applied as a 'wet wrap' to help creams from rubbing off and can be useful for short periods. However no further supporting evidence was identified [6].

Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) make no recommendation on the use of silk garments [7].

**References**

1. Trent Medicines Information Service Prescribable Medical Devices Silk Garments for eczema /atopic dermatitis – Found at: <http://www.midlandsmedicines.nhs.uk/filestore/SilkGarments.pdf> - Accessed on: 23.10.2018
2. PrescQIPP Bulletin 160 – Silk and antimicrobial garments. Published February 2017. Found at <https://www.prescqipp.info/our-resources/bulletins/bulletin-160-silk-and-antimicrobial-garments/> -Accessed on 23.10.2018
3. The Drug Tariff - <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/drug-tariff> Accessed on: 23.10.2018
4. NICE Guidance (CG57) Atopic eczema in under 12s: diagnosis and management, published December 2007 – Found at: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg57/chapter/1-Guidance> Accessed on 23.10.2018
5. NHS – National Institute for Health Research: Silk clothing for children does not reduce objective measures of eczema severity – published on: 22 August 2017. Found at: <https://discover.dc.nihr.ac.uk/portal/article/4000754/silk-clothing->

	<p><a href="#">for-children-does-not-reduce-objective-measures-of-eczema-severity</a>  Accessed on: 23.10.2018</p> <p>6. British Association of Dermatologists – patient information leaflet for atopic eczema – published February 2017. Found at: <a href="http://www.bad.org.uk/for-the-public/patient-information-leaflets/atopic-eczema?q=Atopic%20eczema">http://www.bad.org.uk/for-the-public/patient-information-leaflets/atopic-eczema?q=Atopic%20eczema</a> – Accessed on: 23.10.2018</p> <p>7. Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) Guideline no.125. Management of atopic eczema in primary care. March 2011. Found at <a href="https://www.sign.ac.uk/sign-125-management-of-atopic-eczema-in-primary-care.html">https://www.sign.ac.uk/sign-125-management-of-atopic-eczema-in-primary-care.html</a>  Accessed on: 23.10.2018</p>
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