



PAN MERSEY AREA PRESCRIBING COMMITTEE
PRESCRIBING POLICY STATEMENT
REF: PS237 FINAL
APC BOARD DATE: 28 JUN 2018



Pan Mersey
Area Prescribing Committee

**Elasticated Viscose Stockinette ('Viscose') Garments
(CliniFast®, Comfifast Easywrap®, Skinnies Viscose®,
Tubifast 2-way stretch®)**

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**The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends
the prescribing of Elasticated Viscose Stockinette ('Viscose')
Garments following specialist recommendation for skin
conditions**

FOLLOWING SPECIALIST RECOMMENDATION

Elasticated viscose stockinette ('Viscose') garments are used for wet or dry wrapping and for dressing retention in a variety of skin conditions such as eczema, atopic dermatitis, psoriasis and also burns.

They have a two way stretch, are comfortable to wear under clothing and act as a barrier to stop scratching and protect clothes from greasy emollients.

Four brands of viscose garments are currently listed in the Drug Tariff; CliniFast®, Comfifast Easywrap®, Skinnies Viscose®, Tubifast 2-way stretch®¹

Elasticated viscose stockinette comes in a range of garments, e.g. body suits, vests, leggings and gloves, and in a variety of sizes.

Key Messages:

NICE guidance² CG57 (December 2007) on the treatment of atopic eczema in children recommends that viscose garments should not be used as first-line treatment for atopic eczema in children and they should only be initiated by a healthcare professional trained in their use.

Viscose garments are a more costly option than retention bandages and the tubular version of stockinette, so should only be selected if other options are unsuitable or if they offer an advantage that would support concordance and treatment efficacy.³

Note: Patients who are not eligible for treatment under this statement may be considered on an individual basis where their GP or consultant believes exceptional circumstances exist that warrant deviation from the rule of this policy. In this situation, follow locally defined processes.

Version: 1.1

Review date: June 2020

(or earlier if there is significant new evidence relating to this recommendation)

Elasticated Viscose Stockinette ('Viscose') Garments

<p>EFFECTIVENESS NICE guidance² on the management of atopic eczema in under 12 year olds discusses the use of bandages and medicated dressings. The evidence base was found to be either lacking, or of poor quality with some conflicting results. However, the guideline development group did feel there was a role for these treatments in some cases, and made the following recommendation: whole-body dry bandages (including tubular bandages and garments) should not be used as first-line treatment for atopic eczema in children and should only be initiated by a healthcare professional trained in their use.</p>	<p>SAFETY When patients are being treated with a paraffin-based emollient product that is covered by a dressing or clothing, there is a danger that smoking or using a naked flame could cause dressings or clothing to catch fire. The risk is greater when these preparations are applied to large areas of the body, or when dressings or clothing become soaked with emollient.⁴</p>
<p>COST Range of costs of viscose garments: £2.97 (mittens) - £25.13 (leggings)¹ In the 12 months, from November 16 to October 17, across Pan Mersey area the prescribing costs for viscose garments was £64,084⁵ Clinifast[®] and Comfifast[®] are the least expensive brands based on garment price.</p>	<p>PATIENT FACTORS Viscose garments are generally washable and reusable. The manufacturer's instructions regarding washing and drying differ see table below.</p>
<p>PRESCRIBING INFORMATION Advise patients that garments can be washed and reused multiple times (see table below for individual product information). It is normally recommended that a maximum of two sets of garments is prescribed at any one time. If used every day with greasy emollients these garments may need washing daily, in which case three sets may need to be prescribed – one to wash, one to wear and one spare. Prescribers will need to base the frequency of any repeat prescriptions on how often that individual patient needs to wash garments and the product type prescribed. Also consider whether patient may have just been recommended to use for a short time period.</p>	

Product	Manufacturer	Washable?	Washing and drying instruction	Number of washes/when to replace
Clinifast garments [®]	Clinisupplies Ltd	Yes	Wash on a 60°C wash this allows the emollients to be removed at each wash. Tumble dry on a low / cool setting to prevent shrinkage ⁶ .	Can be machine washed up to 30 times ⁶ .
Comfifast Easy wrap suits [®]	Synergy Health (UK)	Yes	Washable and can be machine washed. ⁷	Can be machine washed up to 30 times. ⁷
Skinsies [®]	Skinsies UK	Yes	Machine washable and can go in the tumble dryer ⁸	Tested to withstand more than 50 washes ⁸
Tubifast 2-way stretch garments [®]	Molnlycke Health Care Group	Yes	Wash at 60°C and tumble dry on a low heat ⁹	Can be reused up to 10 times. ¹⁰

REFERENCES

1. On-line Drug Tariff accessed 21/12/2017
2. NICE guidance CG57 December 2007. Atopic eczema in under 12s: diagnosis and management Available at <https://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG57>
3. Prescqiipp Bulletin B148 Support bandages and stockinette August 2016 <https://www.prescqiipp.info/resources/send/322-wound-care-support-bandages-and-stockinettes/2931-bulletin-148-wound-care-support-bandages-and-stockinettes>
4. MHRA Drug Safety Update April 2016 https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/517251/April_2016.pdf
5. EPACT data accessed 22/12/2017
6. Clinisupplies Ltd Clinifast garments frequently asked questions, accessed 05/03/2018 via <http://www.clinisupplies.co.uk/images/resources/FAQs-Clinifast-garments.pdf>
7. Synergy Health UK Comfifast Easywrap Garments key benefits accessed 05/03/2018 <https://www.synergyhealthplc.com/en/comfifast-easywraptm-garments>
8. Skinsies UK Facts about Skinsies document accessed 05/03/2018 via <http://www.skinniesuk.com/Viscose-Facts>
9. Molnlycke Tubifast Garment Product Sheet accessed 05/03/2018 <http://www.molnlycke.co.uk/Documents/GBR/Wound%20Care/Product%20Sheets/Wound%20Care%20Dressings/Fixation%20Retention%20products/tubifast-garments-with-two-way-stretch-technology-product-sheet.pdf>
10. Personal communication with Molnlycke Health Care Group 05/03/2017