

SODIUM ZIRCONIUM CYCLOSILICATE powder for oral suspension (Lokelma® ▼) for emergency treatment of hyperkalaemia

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of SODIUM ZIRCONIUM CYCLOSILICATE powder for oral suspension (Lokelma® ▼) for emergency treatment of life-threatening hyperkalaemia in adults in accordance with NICE TA599.

RED

Sodium zirconium cyclosilicate is licensed for the treatment of hyperkalaemia in adult patients.¹ NICE technology appraisal [TA599](#)² (04 September 2019) recommends sodium zirconium cyclosilicate as an option for treating hyperkalaemia in adults only if used:

- > in emergency care for acute life-threatening hyperkalaemia alongside standard care **or**
- > in outpatient care for people with persistent hyperkalaemia and chronic kidney disease stage 3b to 5 or heart failure² (see separate [amber initiated statement](#)).

Sodium zirconium cyclosilicate is recommended only if the company provides it according to the commercial arrangement.

Acute hyperkalaemia can be fatal and treating acute life-threatening hyperkalaemia in hospital is established clinical practice. Sodium zirconium cyclosilicate starts reducing serum potassium concentrations as soon as one hour after ingestion and typically, normokalaemia is achieved within 24 to 48 hours of commencing treatment. If patients are still hyperkalaemic after 48 hours of treatment, the same regimen can be continued for an additional 24 hours. If normokalaemia is not achieved after 72 hours of treatment, other treatment approaches should be considered.¹

Treatment must be initiated according to defined treatment algorithms for the management of acute hyperkalaemia and supervised by a consultant physician specialising in acute medicine, nephrology or cardiology.

Costing information

NICE has not assessed the resource impact for the use of sodium zirconium cyclosilicate specifically for short term use in emergency care. Any significant resource impact will likely depend on whether ongoing treatment is required for chronic hyperkalaemia (see separate [amber initiated statement](#)). The NHS list price per 30-sachet pack of sodium zirconium cyclosilicate is: 5g - £213.60; 10g - £472.20.³ However, a commercial in confidence PAS discount is available.

References

1. AstraZeneca UK Limited. Summary of Product Characteristics: [Lokelma 10g powder for suspension](#), 15 April 2021. Accessed 20 May 2021.
2. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. Technology Appraisal 599: [Sodium zirconium cyclosilicate for treating hyperkalaemia](#), 04 September 2019. Accessed 20 May 2021.
3. NHS Business Services Authority. [Dictionary of medicines and devices \(dm+d\) browser](#). Accessed online 20 May 2021.

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.