

PENTOSAN POLYSULFATE SODIUM capsules (Elmiron®) for treating bladder pain syndrome

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of PENTOSAN POLYSULFATE SODIUM capsules (Elmiron®), by specialists only, for treating bladder pain syndrome in accordance with NICE TA610.

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NICE technology appraisal (TA) 610¹ recommends pentosan polysulfate sodium capsules (Elmiron®) as an option for treating bladder pain syndrome with glomerulations or Hunner's lesions in adults with urinary urgency and frequency, and moderate to severe pain, only if:

- > their condition has not responded to an adequate trial of standard oral treatments
- > it is not offered in combination with bladder instillations
- > any previous treatment with bladder instillations was not stopped because of lack of response
- > it is used in secondary care and
- > the company provides pentosane polysulfate sodium according to the commercial arrangement

Prescribing should be retained by a specialist in management of bladder pain syndrome.

Cases of pigmentary maculopathy leading to visual impairment have been reported with pentosan polysulfate, particularly after long-term use at high doses. Ensure patients taking pentosan polysulfate have regular ophthalmic examinations, which should be arranged and provided by secondary care, and ask them to promptly seek medical advice in case of visual changes.²

NICE do not expect this guidance to have a significant impact on resources; that is, the resource impact of implementing the recommendations in England will be less than £9,000 per 100,000 population.¹ Pentosan polysulfate is not PBR excluded.

References

1. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. [Pentosan polysulfate sodium for treating bladder pain syndrome NICE Technology Appraisal 610](#), 13 November 2019. Accessed 15 November 2019
2. Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency. Drug Safety Alert. [Elmiron \(pentosan polysulfate sodium\): rare risk of pigmentary maculopathy](#), 19 September 2019. Accessed 28 October 2019

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.