

Medicines

Optimisation intervention brief

| |
|---|
| TITLE |
| Vagirux [®] 10mcg vaginal tablets for estradiol or Vagifem [®] 10mcg vaginal tablets (also known as 'inserts' or 'pessaries') |
| WHAT? |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For vaginal use, prescribe 10mcg Vagirux[®] in the form of vaginal tablets instead of Vagifem[®] brand or estradiol generically. |
| WHY? |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vagirux[®] 10mcg vaginal tablets contain the equivalent of estradiol 10mcg per tablet (as estradiol hemihydrate) and are an alternative brand to Vagifem[®] 10mcg vaginal tablets. Both brands contain the same active ingredient (estradiol hemihydrate) but Vagirux[®] has a lower acquisition cost. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vagifem[®] / estradiol pessaries = £16.72 for 24 (NHSBSA Drug Tariff Aug 21) Vagirux[®] = £11.34 for 24 (MIMS price Aug 21) Estradiol vaginal tablets should be prescribed by brand name Vagirux[®] (and not generically) to ensure the lower-acquisition cost product is supplied on an NHS prescription. Potential annual savings resulting from a brand switch across Hampshire Southampton and Isle of Wight CCG are in the order of £265K. |
| WHO? |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All appropriate patients currently prescribed Vagifem[®] or estradiol 10mcg vaginal tablets Any new patients requiring vaginal tablets containing estradiol 10mcg |
| TIPS? |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community pharmacies should be notified prior to making the switch to ensure stocks are available for the proposed changes. One pack of 24 Vagirux[®] 10mcg vaginal tablets contains one reusable applicator (can be used up to 24 times and should be disposed of when opening a new pack). Local trusts will continue to prescribe Vagifem[®], but are aware Vagirux[®] will be prescribed in primary care. |
| HOW? |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the provided clinical system search to identify all patients currently prescribed Vagifem[®] or estradiol 10mcg vaginal tablets. Agree a process for switching patients with the practice. Switch all appropriate patients to Vagirux[®] 10mcg vaginal tablets. Consider putting a reminder on the GP clinical system of the preferred formulary brand. |
| SO WHAT? |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Savings will be realised which can be reinvested for the benefit of patient care. |
| FURTHER INFORMATION |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/11752 https://www.mims.co.uk/drugs/obstetrics-and-gynaecology/menopausal-disorders/vagirux |