

TAYSIDE PRESCRIBER

ADTC Supplement

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Treatment of Erectile Dysfunction (ED) in Tayside: Guidelines on Referral of Patients with Severe Distress

A report by a Treatment Review Sub-Group of the Area Drug & Therapeutics Committee

Background

The Chief Medical Officer, in his letter of 3rd September 1999 [SEHD/CMO(99)4], confirmed the decision to allow treatment of male erectile dysfunction (MED) at NHS expense, for patients not already eligible for NHS prescriptions for such treatments, where the erectile dysfunction was the cause of severe distress. Treatment must be provided by specialist services after referral by GPs. The following gives details of the services available in Tayside (within TUHT) and the appropriate referral pathway. The advice is issued by a Treatment Review Sub-Group of the Area Drug & Therapeutics Committee.

Previous Prescribing

The majority of cases of MED are assessed and treated in Primary Care with drugs prescribed by GPs under Schedule 11 on NHS prescription for specific categories, as follows:

radical pelvic surgery;	spinal cord injury;	multiple sclerosis;
single gene neurological disease;	severe pelvic injury;	diabetes;
polio in the past;	spina bifida;	Parkinson's disease;
prostatectomy and/or been treated for prostate cancer (surgery/other treatments);		
renal failure by way of transplant or dialysis		

Further, where the GP or specialist determines that NHS prescriptions are not appropriate (i.e. the conditions above do not apply) for individual patients, drug treatment may be prescribed privately by the GP.

Most recently, the "severe distress" criterion extends the availability of MED treatments at NHS expense.

Specialist Services

The range of services and addresses and contact numbers are given in the accompanying algorithm. GPs should consider referral for patients who might be suffering from severe distress. BNF includes guidance that referral is appropriate if:

- Significant disruption to normal, social and occupational activity
- Marked effect on mood, behaviour, social and environmental awareness
- Marked effect on interpersonal relationships

NB. Do not refer patients to the Urology Consultants. If the urology route is deemed appropriate, see algorithm, referral to Andrology (ED) Clinic.

Supply of MED Treatments via Specialist Services

SEHD/CMO(99)4 states that MED treatments under the severe distress criterion must be prescribed by the specialist services on an in-house form (for dispensing by the NHS Trust dispensary/pharmacy) or form HBP (Blue) prescriptions for dispensing in the community. The latter must be endorsed "SLS" otherwise the community pharmacist is unable to supply the medicine to the patient.

REFERRAL OF MEN WITH ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION CONSIDERED TO BE THE CAUSE OF SEVERE DISTRESS

GENERAL PRACTITIONER

Assess patient:

Is MED treatment indicated and appropriate?

Can treatment be prescribed under Schedule 11?

If not, is a Private Prescription appropriate?

GPs should consider referral for patients who might be suffering from severe distress. BNF includes following guidance:

- Significant disruption to normal, social and occupational activity
- Marked effect on mood, behaviour, social and environmental awareness
- Marked effect on interpersonal relationships

REFER TO

**ANDROLOGY (ED)
CLINIC**

Department of Urology

Ninewells Hospital

Tel: 01382 660111 Ext: 35634

Fax: 01382 425566

Contact: Dr G. Watson

TAYSIDE PSYCHOSEXUAL CLINIC

Psychiatric Out-Patient Clinic

Area 7, Level 6, South Block

Ninewells Hospital

Tel: 01382 633856

Fax: 01382 425533

Contact: Dr E. Kennedy

Dr S. Lendrum

Dr M. Semple

**GENITO-URO AND PELVIC
MEDICINE**

Department of Genito-Uro and Pelvic

Medicine

South Block

Level 7

Ninewells Hospital

Tel: 01382 425542

Fax: 01382 425533

**TAYSIDE FAMILY PLANNING AND WELL
WOMAN SERVICES**

Dundee: Ryehill Health Centre

St Peter Street

DD1 4JH

Tel: 01382 646564

Contact: Dr E. Kennedy

Perth: Drumhar Health Centre

North Methven Street

PH1 5PD

Tel: 01738 621181

Contact: Dr S. Lendrum

Dr A. Mitchell

GPs should determine the appropriate referral route. Centres work closely together and can refer patients on when necessary. For details of referral to Genito-Uro and Pelvic Medicine, Tayside Psychosexual Clinic and Tayside Family Planning and Well Woman Services - see "Sexual Problems Services in Tayside - Referral Guide for Health Care" produced and circulated in June 2000.