TAYSIDE PRESCRIBER

ADTC Supplement

Issue 12

February 2001

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

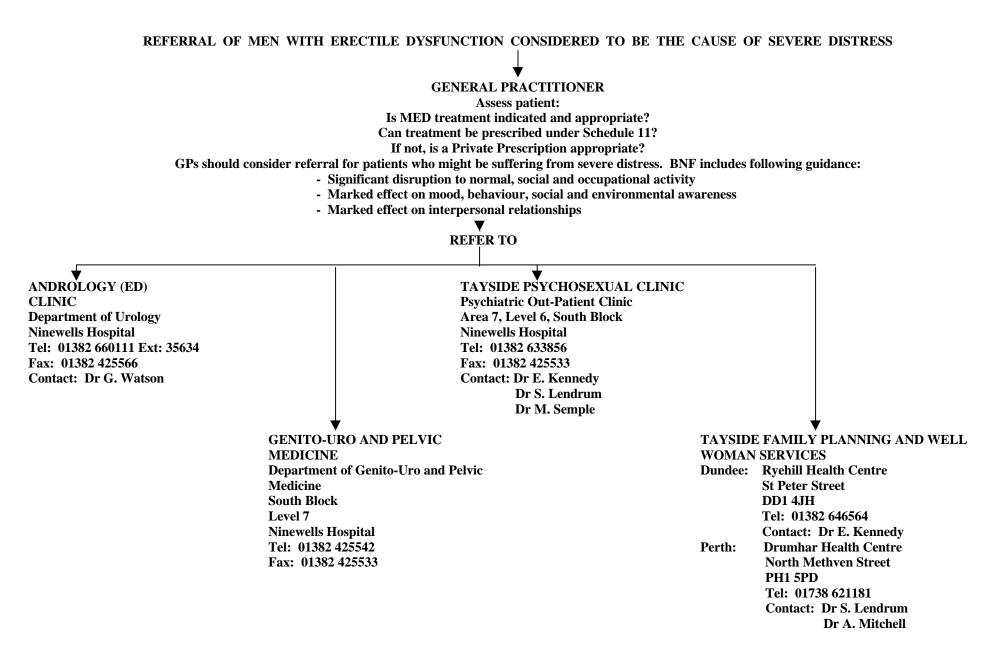
The range of services and addresses and contact numbers are given in the accompanying algorithm. GPs should consider referral for patients who might be suffering from severe distress. BNF includes guidance that referral is appropriate if:

- 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.



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.

Treatment Review Sub-Group