




Lidocaine Plaster 5% change of formulary status from Green to Amber

Please be aware that lidocaine 5% plasters have changed to an  status on the Tayside Area Formulary. This means that they can now **ONLY** be prescribed by the Acute/Chronic Pain, Palliative Care, Renal and Medicine for Elderly Specialists or can be prescribed in primary care under the direction of these specialists for the indications listed below. [CLICK HERE](#) for Local Treatment Protocol.

Approved indications for use are:

- 1). Post-herpetic neuralgia, restricted to use in patients intolerant of 1st line therapies or where these therapies have been ineffective.
- 2). Localised focal neuropathic pain restricted to patients who don't respond to or are intolerant of first and second line systemic therapies (involving amitriptyline, gabapentin and pregabalin or topical menthol or capsaicin).
- 3). Localised neuropathic pain in Palliative Care.
- 4). Acute Pain Team Only - rib, sternal or vertebral fracture (expected duration of treatment 5 - 7 days).

Note: no change has always been amber traffic light for indication 3) and 4) above.

Anything out with the above requires a non-formulary request form to be submitted to the relevant clinical group for approval.

This change has taken place as a result of lack of evidence or no evidence to support its use out with its license for Post Herpetic Neuralgia. Tayside inappropriately prescribes the plasters and is one of the highest users of lidocaine plasters in Scotland costing the trust approximately £800,000 pounds a year. Lidocaine plasters are not included in NICE Clinical Guideline for pharmacological management of neuropathic pain in non-specialist settings.

Prescribing and Monitoring Requirements

Patients should be reviewed 2 weeks after initiation of plaster, thereafter it should be 6 monthly by an appropriate healthcare professional. A treatment free period of one week after 6 months continuous use should be implemented to assess efficacy and continued need for plasters. A monitoring sheet has been developed to help the review process ([CLICK HERE](#) for monitoring sheet).

It's the prescriber's responsibility to document in the patient's medical notes or clinical communications the indication for use, the duration of use and when the two week review should take place. Primary care has the right to refuse to take on the prescribing of the plaster if this information is not documented. No electronic discharge documents should be signed off until this information is included; pharmacy staff have a vital role in implementing this.

Lidocaine plasters should not be put on patients repeat medication list until a review has taken place.

Important Prescribing Points

- 1). Prescribe and supply the brand RALVO® for cost effectiveness.
- 2). No EDD's should be signed off unless indication for use and date of review is documented.
- 3). The plaster can be cut to size and no more than three plasters should be used at the same time.

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**Do you wish to write a Tayside Prescriber?
Do you already have a suitable topic for a Tayside Prescriber?**

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