Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care System

NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board

Independence shower protection pouches (VAP) and ancillary products - Not for Prescribing- Position Statement

Hertfordshire and West Essex ICS does not support the prescribing of independence shower protection pouches for haemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis or any associated ancillary products.

Recommendation

- Identify all patients prescribed one of these products and recommend they contact their dialysis nurse specialist for advice on how to keep their catheter site dry.
- Independence shower protection pouches are NOT on formulary. If requested, suggest patients to discuss options for care of their catheter with their specialist renal nurse at their dialysis unit.
- Remove non formulary items from repeat templates.

Rationale

- Waterproof shower protection pouches to cover haemodialysis/ peritoneal catheter sites are not considered necessary by dialysis specialists and their use is not recommended.
- Dialysis specialists do not endorse their use.

Background

- Renal Dialysis Catheters are crucial to dialysis; there are strict guidelines in place for their use and care, including how the exit site is dressed to help avoid exit site infections.
- Patients are advised to keep the exit site dry at all times and are instructed they should not shower, swim or bathe in such a manner as to submerge the exit site below the waterline.
- A semipermeable dressing such as Tegaderm is used to protect the exit site from infections. This is changed weekly or more frequently as necessary when they attend for dialysis.
- High cost specialised products such as Independence shower protection pouches and ancillary products are being promoted by manufacturers for use by renal dialysis patients.

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