



## Lidocaine 5% medicated plaster (Versatis®)

### Summary of the key findings and information on changes to reimbursement

#### Background

- ✓ Lidocaine 5% medicated plaster (Versatis®) is licensed for the **symptomatic relief of neuropathic pain associated with previous herpes zoster infection known as post-herpetic neuralgia (PHN) in adults.**
- ✓ The Medicines Management Programmes (MMP) Prescribing and Cost guidance report (<http://www.hse.ie/eng/about/Who/clinical/natclinprog/medicinemanagementprogramme/Lidocaine-5-Medicated-Plaster.pdf>) highlighted that the clinical evidence to support the use of lidocaine 5% medicated plaster for PHN is limited due to lack of comparative data and its value is uncertain for all other types of pain.
- ✓ **In 2016, there were over 25,000 patients in receipt of this medicine with a total expenditure in excess of €30 million.**

#### Clinical recommendations

- ✓ **NICE clinical guideline 173: 'Neuropathic pain in adults'** does not recommend the use of lidocaine 5% medicated plaster as a treatment option for neuropathic pain due to limited clinical evidence. **Topical capsaicin 0.075% cream (Axsain®)** is recommended for localised neuropathic pain associated with PHN for patients who wish to avoid, or who cannot tolerate oral treatments.
- ✓ In Northern Ireland, **the Health and Social Care Board** recommend lidocaine 5% medicated plaster should only be considered as 3<sup>rd</sup> line treatment to treat PHN and localised allodynia only. It should **NOT** be used in the treatment of back pain.
- ✓ **The Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)** in the UK restrict the prescribing of lidocaine 5% medicated plaster to clinicians who specialise in the control of pain for the full duration of the treatment course. Funding is limited to a restricted group of patients with localised neuropathic pain unresponsive to other neuropathic agents recommended by NICE and for patients who are intolerant to or who cannot take oral neuropathic agents because of medical conditions and/or a disability.



- ✓ For non-PHN indications e.g. pain and inflammation associated with muscular, rheumatic and soft-tissue, the MMP recommend **a topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) gel e.g. diclofenac 1% gel.**

### **Reimbursement application system**

- ✓ Following the MMP review and based on best practice recommendations, the Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS) are introducing the following changes to the reimbursement of lidocaine 5% medicated plaster. These changes will be introduced on **1 September 2017**.
  - **All new patients initiated on lidocaine 5% medicated plaster must be registered by a GP prior to initiation of treatment.**
  - **The application will be approved if the indication of PHN is outlined and reimbursement will be authorised for a duration of three months.**
  - **Patients currently on treatment with lidocaine 5% medicated plaster must be registered within three months from 1 September 2017 to authorise reimbursement for a duration of three months.**
  - **In exceptional circumstances lidocaine 5% medicated plaster may be required for unlicensed indications. Reimbursement for unlicensed indications for both new and existing patients can also be made through the online system and applications will be reviewed by the Medicines Management Programme prior to a reimbursement approval decision.**
  - **If treatment is required for a duration longer than three months a further application may be submitted.**