

Provision of topical anaesthesia when required for hospital-based treatments

This guidance covers the provision of topical anaesthesia (e.g. EMLA, Ametop) when required for hospital-based treatments. GPs are sometimes requested to prescribe these products for patients attending for a hospital procedure, but in the majority of cases the hospital should supply this if required, as it would be covered by the attendance tariff.

Paediatric blood tests

If required, topical anaesthesia should be provided by the acute trust Pathology department i.e. the GP should not be asked to prescribe. This would also apply to any adult needle-phobic patients.

Dermatology/minor surgery procedures

If required, topical anaesthesia would be within the tariff for the procedure i.e. GP should not be asked to prescribe

Haemodialysis

For hospital based dialysis topical anaesthesia would be within the tariff but would only be given by the hospital where the medical staff felt it was needed (it is not considered the norm to use it as s/c anaesthesia is given). GP should not be asked to prescribe.

If required for home-based dialysis and topical anaesthesia was deemed necessary then the GP would need to prescribe.

Chemotherapy

If required, topical anaesthesia would be within the tariff i.e. GP should not be asked to prescribe.

Approved by the Northamptonshire Prescribing Management Group

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