This information was up to date at the time of release to the Heads of Midwifery.
The editorial board does not accept liability for any errors or omissions following its subsequent publication.
Updating arrangements for the formulary should be decided upon and implemented at a local level.

Clotrimazole Cream Canesten® Cream

Legal status (GSL, P or POM on exemption list, or PGD)	▪ GSL - midwife may supply *or* ▪ P - midwife may supply
Patient group	Women with a vulval fungal infection.
Clinical indication	Women with candidal vulvitis.
Pharmacology (Onset and duration of action where appropriate)	It is an imidazole with a broad spectrum of antimycotic activity which acts against fungi by inhibiting ergosterol synthesis, which leads to structural and functional impairment of the cytoplasmic membrane. Improvement usually starts within 24 hours. Pregnant women need a longer duration of treatment usually for 14 days.
Pharmaceutical form, strength, route of administration	Cream containing 1% or 2% clotrimazole. For external topical application.
Dose, frequency and maximum number of doses or period of time for administration or supply	Woman to apply thinly to vulva and surrounding area two or three times a day for at least 14 days. Supply 1 original pack. May be repeated once without referral to a doctor.
Contra-indications/exclusion criteria	▪ known hypersensitivity to any component of the medicine ▪ abnormal vaginal bleeding or a blood-stained discharge ▪ vulval or vaginal ulcers, blisters or sores ▪ lower abdominal pain or dysuria ▪ fever or chills ▪ nausea or vomiting ▪ diarrhoea ▪ foul smelling vaginal discharge
Cautions and action that will be taken if a caution applies	▪ contains cetostearyl alcohol which may cause local skin reactions ▪ discontinue if local sensitisation or allergic reaction occurs ▪ check for and document any allergies ▪ check and document past medical and drug history and current medication to ascertain potential for overdose ▪ if a caution applies consult with a doctor ▪ document consultation in maternity record

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Medicine interactions and action that will be taken if a patient is taking a medicine that may interact	▪ this product may cause damage to latex contraceptives potentially reducing their effectiveness. Women should be advised to use alternative precautions for at least 5 days after using this product ▪ if there is a clinically significant drug interaction, consult with a doctor before administration or supply ▪ document consultation in maternity record ▪ refer to current BNF for latest information on interactions
Potential adverse reactions and side effects including actions to be taken if adverse drug reaction is suspected	▪ *occasional local irritation* ▪ *other reactions reported are allergic reactions, blisters, genital peeling/exfoliation, pruritis, rash, oedema, discomfort/pain, stinging/burning and irritation* ▪ *on labour* Nil ▪ *on the neonate* Nil ▪ *on breast feeding* Nil ▪ *if a serious adverse reaction is suspected please report to the MHRA Yellow Card Scheme* http://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/
Overdose	▪ if clinical symptoms of dizziness, nausea or vomiting occur after accidental oral ingestion, routine measures such as gastric lavage are recommended ▪ immediate assessment/treatment is essential - refer to medical staff ▪ manage in accordance with established treatment guidelines or see BNF overdose section ▪ for further advice contact National Poisons Centre 0344 892 0111
Action if patient declines	▪ refer to authorised prescriber or doctor ▪ document in maternity record
Additional advice and information	Advise woman to; ▪ wash gently morning and evening with warm water and dry thoroughly ▪ wipe backwards (away from the vagina) after going to the toilet to prevent infection ▪ avoid all medicated and perfumed bath additives, soaps, etc and wearing tight clothing ▪ use without the applicator during pregnancy ▪ advise to contact midwife/GP if condition worsens or symptoms persist ▪ give the manufacturer's patient information leaflet to the woman
Patient monitoring arrangements during and after treatment and follow-up required	Woman should be asked about symptoms and if they have been resolved. Refer to doctor if requiring treatment and woman has already had two courses.
Particular storage requirements	-

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References

1. Summary of Product Characteristics
   http://www.medicines.org.uk for Canesten Thrush Treatment cream . Text revised 16.1.2018
   Accessed 27.12.2019
2. http://www.bnf.org