

This information was up to date at the time of release to the Heads of Midwifery.

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Updating arrangements for the formulary should be decided upon and implemented at a local level.

Clotrimazole pessaries Canesten® pessaries	
Legal status (GSL, P or POM on exemption list, or PGD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ POM - midwife may supply as medicine is on midwives exemptions list <i>or</i> ▪ GSL - midwife may supply <i>or</i> ▪ P - midwife may supply <p>Legal status depends on the brand of the product.</p>
Patient group	Women with a vaginal fungal infection.
Clinical indication	Candidal vaginitis diagnosed by vaginal swab.
Pharmacology (Onset and duration of action where appropriate)	<p>Clotrimazole is an imidazole with a broad spectrum of antimycotic activity. It acts against fungi by inhibiting ergosterol synthesis which leads to structural and functional impairment of the cytoplasmic membrane.</p> <p>Improvement usually starts within 24 hours.</p> <p>May be used with clotrimazole cream.</p>
Pharmaceutical form, strength, route of administration	<p>Vaginal pessaries containing either: 500mg, 200mg or 100mg clotrimazole depending on brand.</p> <p>For vaginal administration without the use of an applicator during pregnancy.</p>
Dose, frequency and maximum number of doses or period of time for administration or supply	<p>500mg at night as a single application.</p> <p>200mg at night for 3 days.</p> <p>100mg at night for 6 days.</p> <p>May be repeated once without referral to a doctor if infection returns again after 7 days.</p> <p>Supply 1 original pack.</p>
Contra-indications/exclusion criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ known hypersensitivity to any component of the medicine ▪ known sensitivity to imidazoles or other vaginal antifungal product ▪ 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

Clotrimazole pessaries Canesten® pessaries

Additional advice and information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 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▪ explain that pieces of un-dissolved pessary may be noticed if there is vaginal dryness and to prevent this, the pessary should be inserted as high as possible at bed time▪ advise that it should be used without the applicator during pregnancy▪ advise to contact midwife/GP if condition worsens or symptoms persist for 7 days▪ give the manufacturer's patient information leaflet to the woman
Patient monitoring arrangements during and after treatment and follow-up required	<p>Woman should be asked about symptoms and if they have been resolved.</p> <p>Refer to doctor if requiring treatment and woman has already had two courses.</p>
Particular storage requirements	-
References <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Summary of Product Characteristics Canesten® Pessaries. Text revision 31.8.2017. Accessed 27.12.2019 http://www.medicines.org.uk2. http://www.bnf.org	