NHS
Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire
Integrated Care Board

BOTULINUM TOXIN POLICY TO INCLUDE:

Blepharospasm in adults, Hemi facial spasm in adults, spasmodic torticollis (cervical dystonia), focal spasticity treatment of dynamic equinus foot deformity, focal spasticity treatment in paediatric cerebral palsy, severe hyperhidrosis of the axillae & gastroparesis

PRIOR APPROVAL REQUIRED

Commissioning Policy Introduction

Botulinum Toxin A is a powerful neurotoxin used medically to relax muscles and for certain conditions there are recognised benefits to patients. This document summarises the commissioning status of Botulinum Toxin A for specific medical conditions.

Botulinum Toxin treatment will not be available for the treatment of facial ageing or excessive wrinkles.

NICE clinical guidelines are recommendations by NICE on the appropriate treatment and care of people with specific diseases and conditions within the NHS. They are based on best available evidence. NHS organisations are entitled to take decisions which do not follow Guidance (other than NICE TAs) if they have a good reason to do so. The availability of resources and competing priorities can be a good reason.

Appendix 1

MHRA Drug safety update

Botulinum Toxin products: rare but serious risk

Products that contain Botulinum Toxin are associated with the risk of severe adverse reactions due to distant spread of toxin. Recommendations include:

- Only physicians with appropriate experience (including use of the required equipment) should administer products that contain Botulinum Toxin.
- Patients or caregivers should be informed about the risk of spread of toxin and should be advised to seek immediate medical care if problems with swallowing or speech develop, or if respiratory symptoms arise.
- Units of Botulinum Toxin are not interchangeable from one product to another.
- Recommended administration techniques and specific dosing guidance (including the recommendation to use the minimum effective dose and titrate according to individual need) should be followed.

References:

MHRA Drug safety update October 2007; Vol 1, issue 3:

10hhttp://www.mrha.gov.uk/Safetyinformation?DrugSafetyUpdate/CON079276

Please note licence indications for individual products

Indication	Commissioning Status	Criteria (Conditions)/Notes
Blepharospasm in adults (Facial dystonia, muscles around the eyes can cause uncontrolled blinking, lid spasm.	Prior Approval with evidence of functional or visual impairment.	Funding will not be approved for treatment periods less than 4 monthly.
Hemi facial spasm in adults (Movement disorder causing muscles on the side of the face to contract uncontrollably).	Prior Approval with evidence of functional or visual impairment.	Funding will not be approved for treatment periods less than 4 monthly.
Primary care must obtain funding before referring patients to secondary care providers and secondary care providers must satisfy themselves that the patient has funding secured prior to seeing the patient. This is to ensure inappropriate out-patient appointments are avoided and patient expectations are properly managed.		
Spasmodic torticollis (cervical dystonia) (Muscles in the neck contract involuntarily)	Indication routinely funded Criteria Based Access	
Focal Spasticity treatment of dynamic equinus foot deformity due to spasticity in paediatric cerebral palsy patients	Indication routinely funded	
Focal Spasticity treatment in paediatric cerebral palsy upper limb (as per NICE CG 145)	Indication routinely funded	
Severe hyperhidrosis of the axillae	Not routinely commissioned	
Gastroparesis	Not routinely commissioned	