

Berkshire West Area Prescribing Committee Policy Statement

Drug Name	Probiotic Food Supplements (VSL® and other brands)		
Indication under review	Gastrointestinal symptoms including pouchitis		
Policy No:	APC 122		
Date of Issue:	March 2016		
Review Date:	March 2019		
Policy Statement: Probiotic Food Supplements such as VSL® and other similar products are NOT recommended for prescribing.			
Traffic Light Status	Brown		
Key Points considered:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The APC did not support this treatment as there is limited evidence of efficacy. • South Central Priorities Committee did not support this treatment when this area was reviewed (2008). • This policy has been produced as a guide for GPs. Evidence and information was carefully considered and consulted upon by clinicians who concluded that this treatment is not a cost effective use of scarce NHS resources. There are situations where this policy may not apply to an individual patient due to their clinical exceptionality. This policy statement does not overrule an individual GPs clinical decision making and therefore each GP would be need to make the final decision on whether treatment is a cost-effective use of their CCG budget. 			
References			
National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE).Clinical Guideline 166. Ulcerative colitis: Management in adults, children and young people. June 2013. Accessed at www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/live/14189/64216/64216.pdf			
Van Assche G, Dignass A, Bokemeyer B et al. Second European evidence-based consensus on the diagnosis and management of ulcerative colitis: special situations. Journal of Crohn's and Colitis 2013; 7 (1): 1-33. http://www.ecco-iccjournal.org/article/S1873-9946(12)00406-0/fulltext			
VSL#3® Product information. Ferring Pharmaceuticals. Healthcare Professionals section accessed at http://www.vsl3.co.uk/hcp/medical_information.php 5. Joint Formulary Committee. British National Formulary. 66th ed. London: BMJ Publishing Group and Royal Pharmaceutical Society. Appendix 2 Borderline substances. A2.5.1 Special additives for conditions of intolerance.			
MIMS app. Haymarket Publishing, London.			
Mimura T, Rizello F, Helwig U et al. Once daily high dose probiotic therapy (VSL#3®) for maintaining remission in recurrent or refractory pouchitis. Gut 2004; 53: 108-114.			
Sinagra E, Tomasello G, Capello F. Probiotics, prebiotics and symbiotics in inflammatory bowel diseases: state of the art and new insights. J Biol Regul Homeost Agents 2013; 27 (4): 919-33.			
Date taken to APC:	2 nd March 2016		
Date Ratified by MMC on Behalf of the Board:	23 rd March 2016		

Berkshire West Area Prescribing Policies serve as a guide to clinicians. This does not overrule the clinical or budgetary responsibility of clinicians when considering treatment for individual patients.

Brown	Green	Amber	Red
These drugs have been reviewed and are not considered a cost effective use of scarce NHS resources	Medicines suitable for routine use. Primary care prescribers take full responsibility for prescribing	Medicines that should be initiated by a specialist and can be continued in primary care under a shared care agreement.	Medicines which should be prescribed by specialists only