

BEDFORDSHIRE AND LUTON JOINT PRESCRIBING COMMITTEE (JPC)

February 2019
Review February 2021

Bulletin 271: JPC Position Statement:- Eflornithine 11.5% cream (Vaniqa®) for the Treatment of Hirsutism

February 2019 Update:

JPC Recommendations:-

The original eflornithine JPC bulletin (number 188) has been archived and replaced with the following Position Statement :-

- The treatment of hirsutism is a cosmetic procedure which is a low priority for funding by CCGs.
- If hirsutism is mild and does not significantly interfere with the woman's quality of life, consider no additional treatment. Hirsutism is not usually associated with any significant medical abnormality.
- Eflornithine 11.5% cream offers very little benefit for the management of facial hirsutism in women. There is limited evidence for efficacy and patient satisfaction with eflornithine.
- Self-funded cosmetic treatments for reduction in hair growth or hair removal (e.g. shaving, plucking, laser treatment, electrolysis) should be the primary options for the majority of women with hirsutism.
- It is important that the patient is properly assessed and underlying causes addressed (such as weight reduction if obese) before pharmacological therapy is considered as hirsutism can result from serious medical conditions or from medication (e.g. ciclosporin, glucocorticoids, minoxidil, phenobarbitone, phenytoin, combined oestrogen-androgen hormone replacement therapy).