

Information for Clinical Choice

Lubricants

Introduction

Information for Clinical Choice (ICC) has been developed to assist Clinicians in the decision-making process when assessing the suitability of a product by providing a clear illustration and description of the features of a range of similar products supplied through NHS Supply Chain. The criteria provided, in the form of a Product Matrix and Support Document, is the result of a product review, conducted by Clinical Specialists, with support from clinical stakeholders from across the NHS.

The aim, alongside delivering savings back into NHS frontline services, is to ensure that clinical choice remains at the forefront of any product switching decision.

Obstetrics Gynaecology and Sexual Health and Urology - Lubricants

The following matrix contains standard, sexual and catheter insertion lubricants, (catheter gels).

- Standard lubricants are designed for medical procedures such as rectal and vaginal examinations. They are thicker than sexual lubricants, some products contain carbomers, used as thickening agent. They impede the function of the laboratory equipment used in the HPV screening program. The presence of carbomer is identified to enable correct product selection based on the clinical need and Standard lubricants consist of both sterile and non-sterile products. The sterile varieties are available in smaller volumes to adhere to IPC guidelines.
- Sexual lubricants, often known as lube, are a thinner consistency and specifically designed for sexual activity to reduce friction and enhance comfort. They are usually non-sterile, available in sachets or tubes and may be available flavoured.
- The catheter insertion lubricants (catheter gels) are differentiated by all being sterile and in either a syringe or an accordion type device for application, coming in plain water soluble or with lidocaine, and or chlorhexidine. There is a move to not using chlorhexidine due to allergy risk.

Product Matrix Guide

The data in the accompanying product matrix is accurate at time of publication. Please review this ICC guidance document and see the downloads section of our Maternity, Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Sexual Health Products and Urology and Bowel contract pages for the filterable product matrix –

<https://www.supplychain.nhs.uk/product-information/contract-launch-brief/obstetrics-gynaecology-and-sexual-health-products/#download-panel>

<https://www.supplychain.nhs.uk/urology/#download-panel>

References

If you have any questions, or would like further information, or have feedback to share, please contact:

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