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

The editorial board does not accept liability for any errors or omissions following its subsequent publication.

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)	 POM - midwife may supply as medicine is on midwives exemptions list or GSL - midwife may supply or P - midwife may supply Legal status depends on the brand of the product.
Patient group	Women with a vaginal fungal infection.
Clinical indication	Candidal vaginitis diagnosed by vaginal swab.
Pharmacology (Onset and duration of action where appropriate)	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. Improvement usually starts within 24 hours. May be used with clotrimazole cream.
Pharmaceutical form, strength, route of administration	Vaginal pessaries containing either: 500mg, 200mg or 100mg clotrimazole depending on brand. For vaginal administration without the use of an applicator during pregnancy.
Dose, frequency and maximum number of doses or period of time for administration or supply	500mg at night as a single application. 200mg at night for 3 days. 100mg at night for 6 days. May be repeated once without referral to a doctor if infection returns again after 7 days. Supply 1 original pack.
Contra-indications/exclusion criteria	 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
Cautions and action that will be taken if a caution applies	 discontinue if local sensitisation or allergic reaction occurs check for and document any allergies check and document past medical and drug history and current medication to ascertain potential for overdose if a caution applies consult with a doctor document consultation in maternity record
Drug interactions and action that will be taken if a patient is taking a medicine that may interact	 this product may cause damage to latex contraceptives, potentially reducing their effectiveness so advise women to use alternative precautions for at least 5 days after using this product tacrolimus- might lead to increased tacrolimus levels. See SPC for details if there is a clinically significant drug interaction, consult with a doctor before administration or supply document consultation in maternity record refer to current BNF for latest information on interactions
Potential adverse reactions and side effects including actions to be taken if adverse drug reaction is suspected	 occasional local irritation other reactions reported are: allergic reactions, genital peeling, pruritis, rash, oedema, discomfort, burning, irritation, pelvic pain, and abdominal pain on labour Nil on the neonate Nil on breast feeding Nil if a serious adverse reaction is suspected please report to the MHRA Yellow Card Scheme http://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/
Overdose	 if clinical symptoms of dizziness, nausea or vomiting occur after accidental oral ingestion, routine measures such as gastric lavage are recommended immediate assessment/treatment is essential - refer to medical staff manage in accordance with established treatment guidelines or see BNF overdose section for further advice contact National Poisons Centre 0344 892 0111
Action if patient declines	 refer to authorised prescriber or doctor document in maternity record

Clotrimazole pessaries	Canesten ® pessaries
Additional advice and information	 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	Woman should be asked about symptoms and if they have been resolved. Refer to doctor if requiring treatment and woman has already had two courses.
Particular storage requirements	-

References

- Summary of Product Characteristics Canesten® Pessaries. Text revision 31.8.2017. Accessed 27.12.2019 http://www.medicines.org.uk
- 2. http://www.bnf.org