

Medicines Optimisation Position Statement

Position statement	ActiPatch®
Number:	013
Approved by Medicines Board:	Adapted from original document (EPPG 23) approved at Effective Prescribing and Performance Group (EPPG) in September 2018, supported from system wide adoption across Frimley Health and Care at MOG June 2022.
Date of planned review:	June 2025

Policy statement

Frimley ICS Medicines Optimisation Board does not currently recommend the prescribing of electromagnetic pulse therapy (Actipatch®) for pain relief.

Background

Actipatch® is a drug-free medical device which pulses an electromagnetic signal 1,000 times per second with the aim of stimulating nerves to dampen the brain's perception of pain.

- It is promoted for chronic pain relief including back pain, knee pain, muscle & joint pain, arthritis, sciatica, fibromyalgia, strains and sprains.
- It is a device applied to the skin at the affected area that provides 720 hours (30 days) continuous electromagnetic pulse therapy treatment, that may be extended to 2 – 3 months by intermittent use.¹
- ActiPatch is included in the Drug Tariff.²

Clinical evidence

BioElectronics Corporation (the manufacturer of ActiPatch®) has undertaken clinical trials, user surveys and compiled patient testimonials.

Sixty-six patients were included in a knee osteoarthritis study³ of which 60 completed the study; a small reduction in pain score against placebo was seen.

In a registry study of 44,000 subjects who tried the device 5000 (11%) submitted an assessment. Of these 65% reported an average pain reduction of 57%. Information about the experience of the remaining 39,000 subjects is lacking.⁴

References:

1. BioElectronics Corporation ActiPatch®
<http://www.actipatch.com/why-actipatch/how-actipatch-works/>
2. NHSBSA Drug Tariff August 2018
3. Gian Luca Bagnato, Giovanni Miceli, Natale Marino, Davide Sciortino, Gian Filippo Bagnato, **Pulsed electromagnetic fields in knee osteoarthritis: a double blind, placebo-controlled, randomized clinical trial**, *Rheumatology*, Volume 55, Issue 4, April 2016, Pages 755–762,
4. Ian M Rawe and Deepak C Kotak **A UK registry study of the effectiveness of a new over-the-counter chronic pain therapy** Ian M Rawe and Deepak C Kotak *Pain Management* 2015 5:6, 413-423