# South East London Area Prescribing Committee
## Formulary recommendation

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| **Intervention:** | Diltiazem 2% cream for anal fissure and and post-operative anal spasm in high risk patients following clinical examination (unlicensed special product)  
The calcium channel blocker diltiazem is a vasodilator. It is available in an unlicensed cream formulation that has been used topically for treating anal fissure. It increases blood flow to smooth muscle and relaxes muscle tone. |
| **Date of Decision** | July 2014 |
| **Date of Issue:** | September 2014 |
| **Recommendation:** | Red – suitable for prescribing and supply by hospital only (see below) |
| **Further Information** | - Diltiazem 2% cream is supported for prescribing by hospitals in South East London for:  
(i) Treatment of anal fissure that has either not responded to 8 weeks of GTN ointment that has been prescribed by the patient’s GP or where intolerable side effects prevent the topical GTN course to be completed (e.g. headaches).  
(ii) First line treatment of anal fissure diagnosed by the hospital, where the patient has been referred to secondary care for management  
(iii) Post operative anal spasm in high risk patients following clinical examination  
- **Stopping criteria:** Non-healing fissure after 6 weeks of treatment, or intolerable adverse effects.  
- The full supply will be provided by the hospital and any funding arrangements required should be agreed with lead commissioning CCGs. |
| **Shared Care/Transfer of care document required:** | N/A |
| **Cost Impact for agreed patient group** | It is estimated that this recommendation will be cost neutral and could result in a small saving to CCGs through a reduction in repeat prescribing. |
| **Usage Monitoring & Impact Assessment** | Trusts – audit usage as required  
CCGs – monitor epact data |
### Evidence reviewed

The evidence evaluation considered the following data:

14. Rectogesic 4mg/g rectal ointment SPC (last revised 02/2012)
17. The Royal College of Surgeons - Commissioning guide for rectal bleeding (October 2013) http://www.rcseng.ac.uk/healthcare-bodies/docs/published-guides/rectal-bleeding
18. NICE advice (ESUOM7): Chronic anal fissure: 0.2% topical glyceryl trinitrate ointment (March 2013) http://www.nice.org.uk/advice/ESUOM7/

### NOTES:

a) Area Prescribing Committee recommendations and minutes are available publicly on member CCG websites.

b) This Area Prescribing Committee recommendation has been made on the cost effectiveness, patient outcome and safety data available at the time. The recommendation will be subject to review if new data becomes available, costs are higher than expected or new NICE guidelines or technology appraisals are issued.

c) Not to be used for commercial or marketing purposes. Strictly for use within the NHS