The erectile dysfunction clinic: frequently-asked questions

Who will see my patient?

Patients will normally be reviewed by a Specialist Nurse, following protocols agreed with the Consultant Urologists. Some patients may need Consultant review and this will be assessed by the Specialist Nurses.

Please do not refer patients who are simply curious to know the cause of their problems; treatable organic disease can be excluded by simple examination and investigations in primary care without the need for urological referral.

We are no longer able to see patients for “first-time” referral. Provided simple investigations (see below) are normal and clinical investigation reveals no treatable genital abnormality (e.g. phimosis, short penile frenulum, balanitis, Peyronie’s disease or any other painful penile condition), initial treatment should be oral therapy using Sildenafil, Tadalafil or Vardenafil.

Assessment can now only be offered to patients in whom these drugs are ineffective, contra-indicated or associated with severe side-effects. We are not able to offer assessment of “severe psychological distress” which should be provided by a Consultant Psychiatrist or by a Psycho-Sexual Counsellor.
How do I refer a patient?

Send a routine referral letter or fax, including details of:

- Hormone profile (FSH, LH, TSH, testosterone & prolactin)
- Genital and digital rectal examination
- Current drug consumption (therapeutic and recreational)
- Past medical history (including operations).

Send your fax to 01223 216069 (Addenbrookes), 01480 363566 (Hinchingbrooke) or post the referral letter to the Erectile Dysfunction Clinic.

Is prostaglandin treatment available?

Yes. Patients suitable for penile injections of Alprostadil or for MUSE will be trained in their use and have dosage recommendations made. These patients will normally be reviewed in outpatients once they have commenced on treatment.

All types of treatment for erectile dysfunction are subject to Schedule 11 restrictions; only patients suffering from the following conditions can obtain treatment on the NHS:

- Diabetes mellitus
- Injury (spinal cord or pelvis)
- Multiple sclerosis
- Poliomyelitis
- Prostate cancer
- Psychological distress (severe)
- Renal failure
- Single-gene neurological disorders
- Spina bifida
● Surgery (prostatectomy & radical pelvic surgery)

**Is it possible to obtain penile prostheses?**
No. We are not funded to provide penile prostheses and any patients requiring these will be referred to the Institute of Urology in London for further management. This will necessitate obtaining agreement for funding from your PCT in advance of referral.

**Who can I contact for more help or information?**

**Oncology Nurses**
- Uro-Oncology Nurse Specialist
  01223 586748
- Bladder cancer Nurse Practitioner (haematuria, chemotherapy & BCG)
  01223 274608
- Prostate cancer Nurse Practitioner
  01223 274608

**Non-Oncology Nurses**
- Urology Nurse Practitioner (incontinence, urodynamics, catheter patients)
  01223 274608 or 586748

**Patient Advice & Liaison Centre (PALS)**
- Telephone
  +44 (0)1223 216756 or 257257
  +44 (0)1223 274432 or 274431
- PatientLine
  *801 (from patient bedside telephones only)
- E mail
  pals@addenbrookes.nhs.uk
- Mail
  PALS, Box No 53
  Addenbrooke's Hospital
  Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 2QQ

**Chaplaincy and Multi-Faith Community**
- Telephone
  +44 (0)1223 217769
- E mail
  derek.fraser@addenbrookes.nhs.uk
- Mail
  The Chaplaincy, Box No 105
  Addenbrooke's Hospital
  Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 2QQ
Other information
This leaflet contains guidelines and advice from professional bodies, together with information about the prescription of drugs. All NHS hospitals have local arrangements with their Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) about which medicines can be used. As a result, some drugs mentioned cannot be prescribed by local hospitals.

Treatment of patients will be planned with the Consultant responsible for care, taking into account those drugs which are or are not available at the local hospital and what is appropriate for optimum patient care.

Healthcare professionals are advised to check prescribing arrangements with their local hospital or PCT.

How can I get information in alternative formats?
Please ask if you require this information in other languages, large print or audio format: 01223 216032 or patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Polish Informacje te można otrzymać w innych językach, w wersji dużym drukiem lub audio. Zamówienia prosimy składać pod numerem: 01223 216032 lub wysyłając e-mail: patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Portuguese Se precisar desta informação num outro idioma, em impressão de letras grandes ou formato áudio por favor telefone para o 01223 216032 ou envie uma mensagem para: patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Russian Если вам требуется эта информация на другом языке, крупным шрифтом или в аудиоформате, пожалуйста, обращайтесь по телефону 01223 216032 или на вебсайт patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Cantonese 若你需要此信息的其他語言版本、大字體版或音頻格式，請致電 01223 216032 或發郵件到：patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk
Addenbrooke’s is smoke-free. You cannot smoke anywhere on the site. Smoking increases the severity of some urological diseases and increases the risk of post-operative complications. For advice on quitting, contact your GP or the NHS smoking helpline free on 0800 169 0 169

**Document history**

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**First published**  
May 2005

**Review date**  
April 2014

**File name**  
The erectile dysfunction clinic

**Version number**  
6.0

**Ref**  
19/Info_04_11