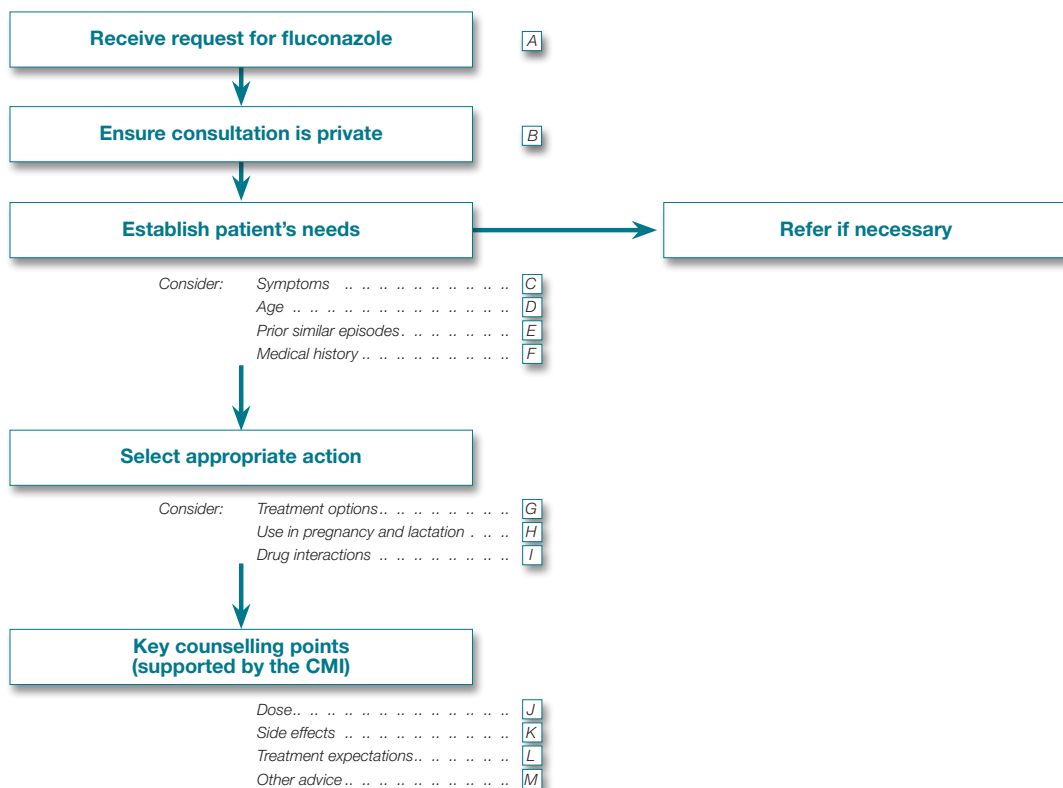


Provision of oral fluconazole as a Pharmacist Only medicine

for the treatment of vaginal candidiasis—January 2006



Explanatory notes

Pharmacists are expected to exercise professional judgment in adapting the guidance they provide to specific presenting circumstances.

A. Professional standards

The professional standards¹ outline the appropriate actions to be taken by pharmacists and trained pharmacy staff in response to a direct product or symptom-based request.

B. Privacy

Pharmacists will be aware of their obligations in relation to respecting the patient's privacy and confidentiality in the provision of a Pharmacist Only medicine and associated patient counselling.¹

Particular care is needed for conditions which may be difficult for the patient to discuss.

C. Symptoms

Vulvovaginal candidiasis (VVC) is a common cause of vulvitis and vaginitis. However, there are other common conditions that can produce similar symptoms; e.g. bacterial vaginosis, trichomoniasis, genital herpes, atrophic vaginitis and dermatitis.²⁻³

Symptoms typical of VVC include itching of the vulval area, vulvar erythema, and vaginal discharge that is thick, white (cottage cheese-like) and odourless.²⁻⁴

Referral to a medical practitioner is necessary if symptoms include fever, discharge with unusual colour or smell, abnormal or irregular menstrual bleeding, blood-stained discharge, vaginal or vulval sores or blisters, pain in the lower abdomen, or burning on urination.