



Gateshead Network
Commissioning Consortium



GUIDELINES FOR PRESCRIBING DERMATOLOGY SPECIALS

Version Control Sheet

Ratified	Approved
Status	Final
Issued	March 2013
Approved by	Gateshead Medicines Management Committee
Consultation	Primary Care Medicines Management Committees Dermatology Departments in Primary Care & Secondary Care
Implementation Date	April 2013
Core Standard reference	CQC Outcome 9
Equality Impact Assessment	to be carried out
Distribution	GPs, Secondary Care departments, Specialist services, Non-medical Prescribers, Nursing Teams, Community Pharmacies,
Review	March 2015
Author	Hannah Jones
Version	V1.0
Reference No	
Location	

Introduction

The aim of this document is to provide guidance on the prescribing of specials on FP10 within Dermatology in primary care.

The guidelines have been developed for use across Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland CCGs. A consistent approach is needed across the primary care to ensure that there is no confusion for secondary care services, no inequalities in the provision of services and that cost-effectiveness of prescribing is maintained.

Aims

- To review current prescribing across South of Tyne & Wear localities in line with The British Association of Dermatologists specialist booklet (BAD 2008)
- To agree a list of Dermatology Specials prescribed by specialists in both primary and secondary care.
- To consider recommendations to use the most cost-effective manufacturers of specials wherever possible.

Equality and Diversity Statement

This policy will aim to be accessible to everyone regardless of age, disability, gender, race sexual orientation, religion/belief or any other factor which may result in unfair treatment or inequalities in health / employment.

Note:

GPs are advised that dermatological specials not listed in this guidance or the British Association of Dermatology (BAD) list <http://www.bad.org.uk/site/1284/default.aspx> should be considered as **RED** and should not be prescribed in primary care.

SOTW List of Dermatological Specials for prescribing in Primary Care on FP10

Please consider the following before prescribing a Dermatological Special on FP10:

Where a proprietary product exists, this should be used in preference to a special, such as for:

- Menthol in aqueous cream
- Lassar's paste (zinc and salicylic acid paste BP)
- Formaldehyde
- Dithranol

Dermatological Specials are only indicated in specific circumstances. They are not indicated for routine use:

- Dermatological Specials should not be initiated other than on the authority of a Consultant Dermatologist or a GP with a Special Interest in Dermatology.

Prescribe the Special as an acute prescription not a repeat:

- Most of the Dermatological Specials included on the SOTW list are indicated for short-term use only.
- Treatment should be stepped down to proprietary products once flare-ups are controlled.
- Patients should be reviewed regularly to identify continued need for prescribing of dermatology medicine (see below).

For coal tar preparations – ensure that the correct formulation is requested:

As written on prescription	Type of coal tar used
Coal tar 6% in YSP	Crude coal tar
Coal tar solution 6% in YSP	Alcoholic solution of crude coal tar – 1 in 12 dilution
Coal tar solution strong 6% in YSP	Alcoholic solution of crude coal tar – 1 in 6 dilution

Consider specifying the manufacturer on the FP10 prescription:

- Most Dermatological Specials can be procured at a much lower price than that usually paid by primary care if they are procured from certain suppliers who routinely produce large volumes of these specials.
- It is recommended that wherever possible community pharmacies order specials from the special manufacturers that provide the most cost-effective specials.

Regularly review the need for any Dermatological Special prescribed on repeat.

- Most of the Dermatological Specials included on the SOTW list are indicated for short-term use only.
- Treatment should be stepped down to proprietary products once flare-ups are controlled.
- If the Dermatological Special seems to be being used regularly or frequently, invite the patient for a review appointment with a view to discussing stepping down or refer to Dermatology for a review.

Recommended Dermatology Specials List

SOTW Dermatological Specials Formulary	Indication	Place in treatment	Average cost on FP10 in last year	Most Cost-Effective Supplier
Tars				
Coal tar solution 2% in Yellow Soft Paraffin	Psoriasis	Non-response to proprietary coal tar products (such as Psoriderm or Exorex)	£144.82	CHFT PMU £4.84 per 80g
Coal tar solution 6% in Yellow Soft Paraffin	Psoriasis	Non-response to proprietary coal tar products (such as Psoriderm or Exorex)	£143.98	CHFT PMU £70 for up to 300g
Coal tar 5% + Salicylic acid 2% in emulsifying ointment	Psoriasis	Heavy scale + non-response to proprietary coal tar products	£150.77	CHFT PMU £70 for up to 300g
Coal tar 6% pomade	Scalp psoriasis	Non-response to proprietary coal tar shampoos, Cociois or Sebco.	-	CHFT PMU £6.46 per 100g
Keratolytics				
Salicylic acid 2% / 5% / 10% / 20% in white soft paraffin	Removal of thick scale in psoriasis prior to starting other treatments or treatment of warts and callouses	Psoriasis – no truly equivalent products: Lassar's paste (zinc oxide 24% + salicylic acid 2%) or Diprosalic (salicylic acid 3% + betamethasone dipropionate 0.05%) Warts – non-response to an adequate trial of proprietary salicylic acid products for warts	£148 - £186 per unit	CHFT PMU £5.57 - £8.03 per 100g
Salicylic acid 2% / 5% / 10% / 20% in aqueous cream			£123 - £229 per unit	CHFT PMU 2-10% £6.64 -£7.12 per 100g 20% - £70 for up to 300g
Salicylic acid 2% and sulphur 2% in aqueous cream	Scaly rashes and plane warts on the face	For use on the face – where coal tar cannot be used.	£126.38	CHFT PMU £9.84 per 100g

Most Cost-Effective Suppliers

The Guideline group have identified the following suppliers who provide dermatology specials at a much more cost-effective rate than other suppliers. The Clinical Commissioning groups request that when a supplier is being chosen that the supplier that provides the most cost-effective dermatology special is chosen.

CHFT PMDU

Calderdale & Huddersfield Foundation Trust pharmacy manufacturing unit

Telephone 01484 355388

Email pmu.orders@cht.nhs.uk

Product range www.pharmacyspecials.co.uk/product-information

Delivery and handling charges: £6.50 up to 1kg
£10 up to 15kg
Over 15kg: £10 plus 50p per kg over 15kg.
Orders under £50: additional £10 handling charge

Newcastle Specials

Newcastle Specials pharmacy production unit (RVI pharmacy manufacturing unit) – specific formulations only

Telephone 0191 2820395

Email newcastle.specials@nuth.nhs.uk

Delivery and handling charges: no extra charge – included within quoted price.