

Medicines Optimisation

Prescribing Memo

Important information – reminder - different potencies of topical corticosteroids

Date: 19.1.15

Information for prescribers:

There have been recent supply problems with Betnovate cream and ointment, including the RD preparation; this may mean that it is necessary to prescribe an alternative product / formulation. GSK have stated that there may be intermittent supply issues until April/May.

Prescribers are reminded that confusion can occur when prescribing different types and different formulations of topical corticosteroids. The Newcastle hospitals have specifically requested that prescribers note the relative potencies of Eumovate and Dermovate compared to Betnovate and the potential for confusion. The following provides a summary of the potencies of common topical corticosteroid preparations:

Note: Potency of a topical corticosteroid preparation is a result of the formulation as well as the corticosteroid. Therefore, proprietary names are shown below *in italic and bold*.

Mild

- Hydrocortisone 0.1–2.5%, *Dioderm, Mildison, Synalar 1 in 10 dilution*

Moderate

- Betamethasone (as valerate) 0.025% (1 in 4 dilution of Betnovate®), *Betnovate-RD, Eumovate, Haelan, Modrasone, Synalar 1 in 4 Dilution, Ultralanum Plain*

Potent

- Beclometasone dipropionate 0.025%, Betamethasone valerate 0.1%, *Betacap, Betesil, Bettamousse, Betnovate, Cutivate, Diprosone, Elocon*, Hydrocortisone butyrate, *Locoid, Locoid Crelo, Metosyn*, Mometasone furoate 0.1%, *Nerisone, Synalar*

Very potent

- *Clobetasol propionate 0.05%, Clarelux, Dermovate, Etrivex, Nerisone Forte*

Reference: BNF 68