

SPECIALS FACTSHEET

Dear GP & Pharmacist

Your patient was reviewed by a dermatologist at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust and has been prescribed: **Clobetasol propionate 0.03% cream in propylene glycol 40% x 100g**

The instructions for use will be documented on the patient's prescription/discharge letter. This is an unlicensed 'special' available from 'special order' manufacturers and licensed hospital manufacturing units.

Indication

Please refer to the patient's dermatology clinic letter for the indication for this treatment.

Rationale for use over other products

Propylene glycol increases the penetration of the steroid (clobetasol propionate) and therefore increases its efficacy when used on areas of thickened skin such as palms and soles. Treatment is indicated where the dermatological condition it is persistent, severe and not responding to potent steroids and emollients alone.

Duration of use

Treatment is usually for 2-4 weeks and if the condition worsens or does not improve within this time then treatment and diagnosis should be re-evaluated. Treatment should not be used continuously for more than 4 weeks. If continuous repeated treatments are necessary, a less potent preparation should be used between courses, such as an emollient.

Patients will usually have a follow up appointment at Guy's and St Thomas' hospital within a month. If the patient's condition deteriorates before the follow up, or if the patient experiences any hypersensitivity reactions (such as erythema, rash, pruritus, urticaria, local skin burning and allergic contact dermatitis), GPs can refer to the dermatologist earlier.

Monthly quantities to be prescribed

This will depend on the nature of the patient's condition and the size of the areas affected but on average a patient will use 4 x 100g containers per 4 week course.

Practical tips regarding application

Apply thinly and gently rub in using only enough to cover the entirety of the affected area. Allow adequate time for absorption after each application - usually an hour (less if under occlusion) before applying an emollient.

Further supplies

For ongoing supplies, this treatment is manufactured and distributed by Guy's manufacturing unit who can be contacted as per below for product information (e.g. cost, how to order and estimated delivery time).

Ordering processing service Pharmacy production unit Pharmacy Guy's Hospital Great Maze Pond London SE1 9RT	Tel: 020 7188 4992 Fax: 020 7188 5013 Opening hours: 9am – 5pm Monday - Friday
--	--

For further information on specials recommended by the British Association of Dermatologists for Skin Disease, including information on all licensed NHS hospital manufacturing units please see: www.bad.org.uk/specials