



## Berkshire West Area Prescribing Committee

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| <b>Drug Name</b>                                       | Aqueous and menthol cream (unlicensed specials and branded specials)   |  |
| <b>Indication under review</b>                         | Treatment of pruritus and other skin conditions  |  |
| <b>Policy No:</b>                                      | APC 076  |  |
| <b>Date of issue/ Date of re-issue:</b>                | January 2014/ March 2017   |  |
| <b>Review Date:</b>                                    | March 2020   |  |
| <b>Policy Statement:</b>                               | Aqueous cream and menthol preparations are not recommended for the routine treatment of pruritus and other skin conditions.  |  |
| <b>Traffic Light Status</b>                            | <b>Brown</b>   |  |
| <b>Key Points considered:</b>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no evidence to support treatment with menthol in aqueous cream.</li> <li>• A similar effect can be achieved by storing aqueous cream in the refrigerator.</li> <li>• Menthol in aqueous cream can cost between 8 and 215 times the cost of aqueous cream and does not represent a cost efficient use of scarce NHS resources.</li> <li>• This policy has been produced as a guide for GPs. Evidence and information was carefully considered and consulted upon by clinicians who concluded that this treatment is not a cost effective use of scarce NHS resources. There are situations where this policy may not apply to an individual patient due to their clinical exceptionality. This policy statement does not overrule an individual GPs clinical decision making and therefore each GP would be need to make the final decision on whether treatment is a cost-effective use of their CCG budget</li> </ul> |  |
| <b>References:</b>                                     | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pacifico A.,De Angelis L.,Fagnoli M.C.,De Felice C.,Chimenti S.,Peris. Clinical Trial on Aveeno Skin Relief Moisturizing Lotion in patients with itching accompanied by skin lesions and xerosis Journal of Applied Research, 2005, vol./is. 5/2(325-330), 1537-064X.</li> </ol>   |  |
| <b>Date taken to APC:</b>                              | 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2017   |  |
| <b>Date Ratified by GP MOC on Behalf of the Board:</b> | 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2017  |  |

Berkshire West Area Prescribing Policies serve as a guide to clinicians. This does not overrule the clinical or budgetary responsibility of clinicians when considering treatment for individual patients.

| <b>Brown</b>   | <b>Green</b>  | <b>Amber</b>   | <b>Red</b>   |
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| These drugs have been reviewed and are not considered a cost effective use of scarce NHS resources | Medicines suitable for routine use. Primary care prescribers take full responsibility for prescribing | Medicines that should be initiated by a specialist and can be continued in primary care under a shared care agreement. | Medicines which should be prescribed by specialists only |