

Sanger House  
5220 Valiant Court  
Gloucester Business Park  
Brockworth  
Gloucester  
GL3 4FE  
Tel: 0300 421 1636

Dear patient/carer

**Information about antimicrobial emollient preparations** (e.g. Dermol 500 lotion)

I am contacting you because the local guidelines for moisturising creams or 'emollients' has recently been reviewed. Local specialists recommend that preparations such as Dermol 500 lotion, which contain antimicrobial ingredients, should not be used routinely as an emollient (moisturiser) or as a soap substitute, but are appropriate to use, usually in the short term, for the management of skin which is infected.

From your repeat prescription record it appears that you have been prescribed an antimicrobial emollient such as Dermol 500 lotion in the past. However, in order to follow the local specialist's recommendations this preparation has been removed from your repeat prescription and will not be reissued as a matter of routine.

How to use emollients

Regular use of an emollient (moisturiser) cream which does not contain an antimicrobial agent, such as *Epimax* cream, is usually recommended for regular use on long term dry skin conditions. It may also be used as soap substitute. To do this, mix a small amount (around a teaspoonful) in the palm of your hand with a little warm water and spread it over damp or dry skin. Rinse and pat the skin dry, being careful not to rub it. After drying yourself reapply the emollient to your skin but this time leave it to soak in as you would normally.

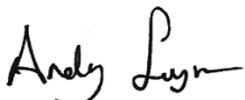
If your doctor thinks you require regular emollient treatment, a suitable alternative preparation will have been added to your repeat medicines list. Patients and their carers regularly using emollients should be advised not to smoke or go near naked flames because clothing or fabric such as bedding or bandages that have been in contact with an emollient or emollient-treated skin can catch fire.

Over the counter purchase of emollients

People who have an occasional dry skin condition which is minor in nature may be asked to purchase their own emollient over the counter from a community pharmacy or supermarket. This is in accordance with National Guidance<sup>1</sup> which has been adopted by Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group which recommends some treatments for minor ailments are no longer routinely available on NHS prescription.

We hope that you will understand why we have made this change to your prescription. If you have any concerns over how this will impact your health, please do not hesitate to speak to your GP, Clinical Pharmacist or Practice Nurse. If you have any concerns or complaints about the decision, please contact the CCG at: [glccg.pals@nhs.net](mailto:glccg.pals@nhs.net)

Yours sincerely,



**Dr Andy Seymour**  
Clinical Chair NHS  
Gloucestershire CCG

1. Reference: NHS England guidance  
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/conditions-for-which-over-the-counter-items-should-not-routinely-be-prescribed-in-primary-care-guidance-for-ccgs/>