

## Scabies Guidance for treatment of Outbreaks - January 2023

Following outbreaks of scabies in care homes, the following guidance has been written by the ICB pharmacy team to help GP practices, care homes and community pharmacies with the bulk prescribing of permethrin cream for the treatment of the outbreak.

### For Care Homes

GP's and community pharmacies can bulk prescribe Permethrin cream in the event of a scabies outbreak.

The bulk prescribed permethrin cream will not have individual resident names on the tubes, only the care home name.

If MAR charts or additional labels are not supplied for adding to the current MAR chart, transcribe the cream onto each residents MAR chart, using the instructions provided by the GP surgery.

Below is information that is useful for GP practices and community pharmacies who might be asked by a care home for a bulk prescription of Permethrin cream.

For further information on scabies please visit the health and wellbeing page on the HCPA website and click on the link to skin health [Health & Wellbeing | HCPA](#)

In the event of an outbreak please ensure your organisations infection prevention and control practices are robust and all staff are following the correct IPC procedures. You can find more information on correct IPC practices on the HCPA website [Infection Prevention & Control | HCPA](#)

### Information for GP practices

Follow the bulk prescribing guidance [Bulk Prescribing Full Guidance.pdf \(enhertscg.nhs.uk\)](#)

A bulk prescription is an order for two or more patients, bearing the name of a school or institution e.g. a care home, in which at least twenty persons normally reside, for the treatment of at least ten of whom a particular doctor is responsible.

Patients not registered under a particular GP who is bulk prescribing for a care home should continue to receive named patient supplies from their own GP (unless their GP is also bulk prescribing for that care home).

As the treatment for scabies is a one off, and not an ongoing treatment, permethrin cream does not need to be prescribed on an individual basis for each resident initially.

A bulk prescription can be written or printed on an ordinary FP10 prescription – it cannot be sent via EPS as there is no patient name.

Requirements for Bulk Prescriptions	
1	Wording “for patients under my care at {the name of the care home}” (instead of the individual name of the patient)
2	Date prescribed
3	The words ‘bulk prescription’ – to identify the type of prescription
4	The medicine that is being ‘bulk prescribed’
5	The total quantity required for all service users on this medication

6	The directions i.e. for permethrin cream: apply all over the whole body, including the neck, face, ears, and scalp. Wash off after 8-12 hours.
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The prescription should be for enough to treat all residents, taking into account those who will need to use 2 tubes.

An entry must be made into each residents medical record, either by bulk entry, or individually.

Ensure that the care home is provided with additional written instructions for use of permethrin cream:

- The cream should be applied all over the whole body, including the neck, face, ears, and scalp.
- Particular attention should be paid to the areas between fingers and toes, under nails, wrists, armpits, external genitalia, breasts, and buttocks. The area close to the eyes should be avoided.
- Treatment should be washed off after 8–12 hours. If hands are washed with soap within 8 hours of application, they should be treated again with cream.
- The cream should be applied to cool dry skin (not after a hot bath) and allowed to dry before the person dresses in clean clothes.
- The cream should not be applied to broken skin, mucous membranes, or near the eyes.
- If the cream comes into contact with dressings, clothing, and bedding, the fabric can be easily ignited with a naked flame.
- Parents/carers who apply permethrin cream should wear gloves to avoid any possible irritation to the hands.

Recommended doses are as follows:

- Adults and children over 12 years of age — usually, up to one tube (30 g). Some adults may need to use an additional tube for full body coverage but should not use more than two tubes (60 g in total) at each application.

Provide the care home with a list of residents whom the treatment is for.

Staff must obtain a prescription from their own GP surgery if they are not registered with the same surgery as the care home.

### **For Community Pharmacy**

See the PSNC website [Is this prescription form valid? - PSNC Website](#)

The tubes will be labelled with the name of the care home rather than each individual resident.

Agree with the care home whether MAR charts or additional labels for current MAR charts are going to be supplied to the care home.