

Dear Patient

CHANGES TO YOUR PRESCRIPTION

Following advice from Welsh Government / Powys Teaching Health Board, the practice is reviewing the prescribing of **bath and shower emollient products**.

NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) state that emollient bath additives provide *no additional clinical benefit* over leave-on emollients alone in the management of dry skin conditions.

Preparations formulated for use in the bath / shower are more expensive than standard emollients and require higher volumes to be used; continuing to prescribe these products is therefore not the best use of NHS resources.

With support from dermatology specialists, Powys Teaching Health Board has decided that bath and shower emollients will no longer be routinely prescribed for dry skin conditions such as eczema, psoriasis, or dermatitis.

These product(s) will therefore be removed from your repeat prescription list.

The health board faces increasing pressure to ensure that all NHS spending in Powys supports treatments that are both clinically effective and evidence based. This approach helps us to ensure that patients receive the most appropriate and effective treatments for their needs while protecting essential NHS services in the area.

Recommendations

Leave-on emollients are still recommended by NICE. These can be used both as moisturisers and as soap substitutes when washing.

- If you are already prescribed a leave-on emollient, you should follow the enclosed guidance and use it in place of soap or body wash in addition to your current regime.

Whilst evidence shows that bath or shower emollients do not provide additional benefit in the management of dry skin conditions, they remain widely available to be purchased if patients wish to complement their standard emollient regime.

If you have any questions about this change or if you would like to receive this letter in Welsh, please contact the Pharmacy Team at your practice.

You can also find more information on emollients on the NHS website at [Emollients - NHS](#)

Thank you for your understanding and support.