

## **Emollient Guidance and Formulary**

#### Rationale for prescribing emollients

This guidance has been developed for use in the management of patients with a <u>diagnosed</u> <u>dermatological condition</u>. These are:

- 1. Eczema (also known as dermatitis) is a dry skin condition. <u>Atopic eczema</u> (also known as atopic dermatitis) is a chronic, itchy, inflammatory skin condition that affects people of all ages, although it presents most frequently in childhood. It is typically an episodic disease of flares (exacerbations, which may occur as frequently as two or three times each month) and remissions; in severe cases, disease activity may be continuous. The term 'atopic' is used to describe a group of conditions (eczema, asthma, hay-fever, and food allergy) that are linked by an increased activity of the allergy component of the immune system. Atopic eczema is a genetic condition based on the interaction between a number of genes and environmental factors. In most cases there will be a family history of either eczema or one of the other 'atopic' conditions i.e. asthma or hay fever.
- 2. <u>Contact dermatitis</u> is a type of eczema triggered by contact with a particular substance. Contact dermatitis can be caused by:
  - a. an irritant a substance that directly damages the outer layer of skin
  - b. An allergen a substance that causes the immune system to respond in a way that affects the skin.

Contact dermatitis is most commonly caused by irritants such as soaps and detergents, solvents or regular contact with water.

#### Considerations before prescribing emollients

- There is no evidence from <u>controlled trials</u> to support the use of one emollient over another
- Prescribe an emollient according to the dryness of the skin, and individual preference/tolerance. The key to successful management is finding the correct balance between these factors
- 3. Offer the product with the lowest acquisition cost from the formulary below that is appropriate to their condition
- Once opened, emollients can continue to be used up to their expiry date, specified on the container unless the manufacturer has advised otherwise- this also applies to care homes
- 5. Aqueous cream is generally not recommended because of the high risk of developing skin reactions:
- A clinical audit found that the use of aqueous cream results in a significant proportion of people developing sensitization reactions, so it should be avoided<sup>1</sup>
- The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)<sup>2</sup> warns that Aqueous cream may cause local skin reactions, such as stinging, burning, itching, and redness, when it is used as a leave-on emollient, especially in children with atopic eczema. The reactions, which are not generally serious, often occur within 20 minutes of application but can occur later, and may be due to sodium lauryl sulfate or other additives

A prescription for treatment of dry skin **should not** routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is appropriate for self-care. Patients with mild dry skin can be successfully managed using over the counter (OTC) products on a long term-basis

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## <u>Position statement</u> on the prescribing of emollient bath oils, shower gels, washes and shampoos

Following the local Spending NHS Money Wisely public consultation, the Governing Bodies of the BHR CCGs met in common on 14th December 2017 to agree changes to prescribing across Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge.

#### From 8th January 2018

Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge Clinical Commissioning Groups (BHR CCGs) no longer supports the prescribing of emollient bath oils, shower gels, washes and shampoos

#### **Decision**

The decision to stop emollient bath oils, shower gels, washes and shampoos applies to <u>ALL</u> patients across Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge.

#### Prescribing alternative

BHR CCGs have agreed that emollients creams and ointments can be prescribed for use in the bath

#### This decision was made because:

- BHR CCGs believe it is more cost-effective to prescribe emollient creams and ointments for use in the bath
- Patients can purchase emollient bath oils, shower gels, washes and shampoos if they wish to continue using these products
- BHR CCGs have a duty to spend taxpayer's money wisely, to make sure they get the best value possible especially when NHS funding is being severely squeezed and more patients are being seen with more complex issues than ever before

#### Categories of emollients

- Creams and gels: Creams and gels are emulsions of oil and water and their less greasy
  consistency often makes them more cosmetically acceptable than ointments. They are well
  absorbed and generally more effective than light emollients. They usually contain
  preservatives and ingredients to stabilise the cream, this can cause risk of sensitivity.
- Ointments: Ointments are the greasiest preparations, made up of oils or fats. They do not
  usually contain preservatives; could be suitable for those with sensitivities but shouldn't be
  used on weeping eczema

Lotions and Sprays: no evidence of clinical efficacy noted and hence to be considered for self-care by patients if they so wish to use them.

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#### Quantities to be prescribed for Adults

- Emollients are typically under-prescribed and under-used for diagnosed skin conditions. This
  results in suboptimal treatment of dry skin and eczema, and may increase the occurrence of
  flares<sup>2</sup>
- Once the preferred choice of emollient is known, encourage appropriate usage by prescribing generous amounts (for example 500 g) to be used regularly (often four times daily)
- Where possible, <u>pump-dispensers should be prescribed</u> when large quantities of emollients are required. This is because they are more convenient than other containers and are less likely to become contaminated by potential pathogens

Area of body					
Twice daily application for an adult (approximately)					
	One week Supply	One month supply			
Face	15g -30g	60g - 120g			
Both hands	25g -50g	100g – 200g			
Scalp	50g - 100g	200g – 400g			
Both arms / both legs	100g - 200g	400g – 800g			
Trunk	400g	1600g			
Groin and genitalia	15g - 25g	60g – 100g			

For children reduce quantity approximately by half (Information from this fact sheet is based on the PrescQIPP Bulletin 76 (May 2015): Cost-effective prescribing of emollients)



#### Formulary product choices:

#### **OINTMENTS**

## **VERY GREASY-GREASY**

For very dry skin +/- acute flare.

> Low risk of sensitivity

- White soft paraffin (WSP)
- Emulsifying ointment, 500g tub (£2.99) (Ingredients: Emulsifying wax 30%, WSP 50% & LP 20%.

Potential skin sensitizer: CetylCetostearyl/Stearyl alcohol)

- 50:50 Ointment tub (500g £3.17) (Ingredients: WSP 50%+LP 50%)
- Epimax Ointment (500g tub £3.95) (Ingredients: Liquid Paraffin, Cetomacrogol Emulsifying Wax, Yellow Soft Paraffin. Potential skin sensitizer: CetylCetostearyl/Stearyl alcohol and Macrogol Cetostearyl Ether 22)
- AproDerm Ointment (500g tub £3.95) (Ingredients: WSP 95%+LP 5%)
- Zeroderm Ointment (500g tub £4.10)

(Ingredients: WSP+LP.

Potential skin sensitizer: Cetostearyl alcohol and

polysorbate 60)

#### OTHER INFO

MHRA/CHM advice (updated December 2018)4

Healthcare professionals must ensure that patients and their carers understand the fire risk associated with the build-up of residue on clothing and bedding and can take action to minimise the risk

- There is a fire risk with all paraffin-containing emollients, regardless of paraffin concentration, and it cannot be excluded with paraffin-free emollients
- A similar risk may apply to products that are applied to the skin over large body areas, or in large volumes for repeated use for more than a few days

Healthcare professionals should advise patients not to smoke or go near naked flames because clothing, bedding, dressings, and other fabrics that have been in contact with an emollient or emollient-treated skin can rapidly ignite. Washing these materials at high temperature may reduce emollient build-up but not totally remove it5.

#### Index:

= can be used a soap substitute

WSP= White Soft Paraffin

LP= Liquid Paraffin

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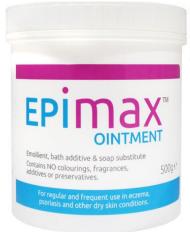
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## Barking and Dagenham, **Havering and Redbridge**

**Clinical Commissioning Groups** 

#### **OAT BASED EMOLLIENTS**

Colloidal oatmeal containing emollients are BORDERLINE substances & may only be prescribed in accordance with the advice of the Advisory Committee on **Borderline Substances (ACBS) for the** clinical conditions listed (Endogenous and exogenous eczema, Xeroderma and Ichthyosis)

can be used as soap substitute

- AproDerm Colloidal Oat Cream (500ml pump £5.80) (Ingredients: Avena Sativa Kernel Flour 1%, Purified Water, Olive Oil, Apricot Kernel Oil, Glycerin, Sucrose Stearate, Cetearyl Alcohol, Glyceryl Stearate SE, Dimethicone, Phenoxyethanol, Vitamin F Ethyl Ester, Ethylhexylglycerin, Xanthan Gum, Disodium EDTA, Vitamin E. Potential skin sensitizer. CetylCetostearyl/Stearyl alcohol)
- Zeroveen (500ml pump £5.89) (Ingredients: Glycerol, Isopropyl Palmitate, Liquid Paraffin, Distearyldimonium Chloride, Avena Sativa Kernel Flour, Cetyl Alcohol, Dimethicone, White Soft Paraffin, Benzyl Alcohol, Allantoin, Stearyl Alcohol, Allantoin, Stearyl Alcohol, Microcrystalline Wax, Myristyl Alcohol, Sodium Chloride, Purified Water.

Potential skin sensitizer: Isoprogyl Palmitate, cetyl alcohol, benzyl alcohol, Stearyl alcohol and myristyl alcohol)

MHRA/CHM advice (updated December 2018)

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**Clinical Commissioning Groups** 

**CREAMS** 

Light moisturising properties

(consider self-care)

can be used as a soap substitute

• <u>Epimax ExCetra Cream</u> (500g Flexi-dispenser £2.95) (**cost effective alternative to Cetraben**)

(Ingredients: LP+WSP and Glycerin.

Potential skin sensitizer: CetylCetostearyl/Stearyl alcohol and Phenoxyethanol)

- ZeroAQS Cream (500 tub £3.29) (Ingredients: Macrogol Cetostearyl Ether 1.8% w/w, Cetostearyl Alcohol, Chlorocresol, Liquid Paraffin, White Soft Paraffin, Purified Water. Potential skin sensitizer: CetylCetostearyl/Stearyl alcohol and Chlorocresol)
- Aquamax Cream 500g (screw top container £3.99)
  (Ingredients: Purified water, White soft paraffin, Cetostearyl alcohol, Liquid paraffin, Polysorbate 60, Phenoxyethanol.
  Potential skin sensitizer: CetylCetostearyl/Stearyl alcohol, Phenoxyethanol and polysorbate 60)
- ExoCream (500ml pump £3.99)\* (cost effective alternative to E45)
   (Ingredients: benzalkonium chloride (0.1% w/w), chlorhexidine dihydrochloride (0.1% w/w), liquid paraffin (10% w/w) and isopropyl myristate.
   Potential skin sensitizer: Cetyl alcohol, sodium cetostearyl sulphate, methyl hyroxybenzoate and propyl hydroxybenzoate)
- Zerocream (500g pump dispenser £4.08)
   (Ingredients: Liquid Paraffin, White Soft Paraffin, Lanolin Anhydrous (wool fat), Glyceryl
   Monostearate, Cetyl Alcohol, Sodium Cetostearyl sulphate, Citric Acid Monohydrate (E330),
   Carbomer, Purified Water, Sodium Hydroxide, Sodium Methyl Hydroxybenzoate, Sodium Propyl
   Hydroxybenzoate.
  - Potential skin sensitizer: CetylCetostearyl/Stearyl alcohol, Lanolin derivatives and Phenoxyethanol)
  - Exmaben cream (500g pump £4.25)
    (Ingredients: Yellow Soft Paraffin Bp, Liquid Paraffin Ph.Eur, Emulsifying Wax and Purified Water.
    Potential skin sensitizer: Cetostearyl Alcohol, Sodium Lauryl Sulphate and Chlorocresol)

MHRA/CHM advice (updated December 2018)

- Healthcare professionals must ensure that patients and their carers understand the fire risk associated with the build-up of residue on clothing and bedding and can take action to minimise the risk
- There is a fire risk with all paraffincontaining emollients, regardless of paraffin concentration, and it <u>cannot</u> be <u>excluded with paraffin-free</u> <u>emollients</u>
- A similar risk may apply to products that are applied to the skin over large body areas, or in large volumes for repeated use for more than a few days

Healthcare professionals should advise patients not to smoke or go near naked flames because clothing, bedding, dressings, and other fabrics that have been in contact with an emollient or emollient-treated skin can rapidly ignite. Washing these materials at high temperature may reduce emollient build-up but not totally remove it.

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#### **GEL**

Light moisturising properties

(consider self-care)

- AproDerm gel (500g pump dispenser £3.99)
   (comparable to DoubleBase)
   (Ingredients: Liquid Paraffin (15%) and Isopropyl
   Myristate (15%), Aqua, Glycerin, Polyacrylate-13,
   Polyisobutene, Polysorbate-20, Phenoxyethanol,
   Benzoic Acid, Dehydroacetic Acid, Ethylhexylglycerin.
   Potential skin sensitizers: Isopropyl myristate)
- Zerodouble gel (500g pump dispenser £4.90)
   (Ingredients: Isopropyl Myristate 15%, Liquid Paraffin 15%, Glycerol, Acrylate C10-C30 Alkyl Acrylate Cross Polymer, Sorbitan Laurate, Triethanolamine, Phenoxyethanol and Purified Water.
   Potential skin sensitizers: Triethanoiamine, Phenoxyethanol and Isopropyl myristate)
- DoubleBase gel (500g pump dispenser £5.83)
   (Ingredients: isopropyl myristate (15% w/w) and liquid paraffin (15% w/w), glycerol, carbomer, sorbitan laurate, trolamine, phenoxyethanol and purified water. Potential skin sensitizers: Triethanoiamine, Phenoxyethanol and Isopropyl myristate)

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## PARAFFIN FREE

Epimax Paraffin-Free Ointment
 (500g £4.99) (comparable to
 Epaderm ointment)
 (Ingredients: plant derived hydrogenated Castor Oil.
 Potential skin sensitizers:
 CetylCetostearyl/Stearyl alcohol)

AproDerm Colloidal Oat Cream

(500ml pump £5.80)
(Ingredients: Avena Sativa Kernel Flour 1%, Purified Water, Olive Oil, Apricot Kernel Oil, Glycerin, Sucrose Stearate, Cetearyl Alcohol, Glyceryl Stearate SE, Dimethicone, Phenoxyethanol, Vitamin F Ethyl Ester, Ethylhexylglycerin, Xanthan Gum, Disodium EDTA, Vitamin E. Potential skin sensitizer: CetylCetostearyl/Stearyl alcohol)

MHRA/CHM advice (updated December 2018)

- Healthcare professionals must ensure that patients and their carers understand the fire risk associated with the build-up of residue on clothing and bedding and can take action to minimise the risk
- There is a fire risk with all paraffin-containing emollients, regardless of paraffin concentration, and it **cannot** be **excluded with paraffin-free emollients**
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## SKIN INFECTION

Dermol 500 lotion (500ml

pump dispenser £6.04)

pump dispenser £6.04)
(Ingredients: benzalkonium
chloride (0.1% w/w),
chlorhexidine dihydrochloride
(0.1% w/w), liquid paraffin (2.5%
w/w) and isopropyl myristate
(2.5% w/w).
Potential skin sensitizers:
Cetostearyl alcohol and isopropyl
myristate)

Dermol cream (500g pump £6.63)
(Ingredients: liquid paraffin, isopropyl myristate, benzalkonium chloride and chlorhexidine hydrochloride.
Potential skin sensitizers:
Cetostearyl alcohol, benzalkonium chloride and phenoxyethanol)

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# UREA CONTAINING EMOLLIENTS

- imuDERM cream (500g pump £6.55) (Ingredients: Urea 5%, glycerol 5%. Potential skin sensitizers: CetylCetostearyl/Stearyl alcohol, benzalkonium chloride, phenethyl alcohol and cetrimonium bromide)
- Flexitol 10% urea cream (500g pump £11.77, 150g tube £5.00) (Ingredients: Urea 10%, Purified water, lanolin, cetostearyl alcohol, glycerine, dimeticone, paraffin oil light, glyceryl monostearate, decyl oleate, PEG-20 stearate, phenoxyethanol, sodium PCA, shea butter, panthenol, tocopheryl acetate, benzyl alcohol, butylated hydroxytoluene, perfume. Potential skin sensitizers: cetostearyl alcohol, phenoxyethanol, benzyl alcohol and perfume)

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Urea based which helps if itching not resolved with emollient. Low or no paraffin content.



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Description	Emollient	Cost (Sept 2019)	Ingredients and additional information
OINTMENTS	White soft paraffin (WSP)		White soft paraffin
Very greasy-greasy  can be used as a soap substitute except for WSP	Emulsifying ointment, 500g	£2.99	Ingredients: Emulsifying wax 30%, WSP 50% & LP 20%. Potential skin sensitizer: CetylCetostearyl/Stearyl alcohol
	50:50 Ointment, 500g	£3.17	Ingredients: WSP 50%+LP 50%
	Epimax Ointment, 500g	£3.95	Ingredients: Liquid Paraffin, Cetomacrogol Emulsifying Wax, Yellow Soft Paraffin.  Potential skin sensitizer: CetylCetostearyl/Stearyl alcohol and Macrogol Cetostearyl Ether 22
	AproDerm Ointment, 500g	£3.95	Ingredients: WSP 95%+LP 5%
	Zeroderm Ointment, 500g	£4.10	Ingredients: WSP+LP. Potential skin sensitizer: Cetostearyl alcohol and polysorbate 60
CREAMS Light moisturising properties (consider self-care)	Epimax ExCetra Cream, 500g (cost effective alternative to Cetraben)	£2.95	Ingredients: LP+WSP and Glycerin. Potential skin sensitizer: CetylCetostearyl/Stearyl alcohol and Phenoxyethanol
	ZeroAQS Cream, 500g	£3.29	Ingredients: Macrogol Cetostearyl Ether 1.8% w/w, Cetostearyl Alcohol, Chlorocresol, Liquid Paraffin, White Soft Paraffin, Purified Water.  Potential skin sensitizer: CetylCetostearyl/Stearyl alcohol and Chlorocresol
	Aquamax Cream, 500g	£3.99	Ingredients: Purified water, White soft paraffin, Cetostearyl alcohol, Liquid paraffin, Polysorbate 60, Phenoxyethanol.  Potential skin sensitizer: CetylCetostearyl/Stearyl alcohol, Phenoxyethanol and polysorbate 60
	ExoCream, 500g (cost effective alternative to E45)	£3.99	Ingredients: benzalkonium chloride (0.1% w/w), chlorhexidine dihydrochloride (0.1% w/w), liquid paraffin (10% w/w) and isopropyl myristate.  Potential skin sensitizer: Cetyl alcohol, sodium cetostearyl sulphate, methyl hyroxybenzoate and propyl hydroxybenzoate

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	Zerocream, 500g	£4.08	Ingredients: Liquid Paraffin, White Soft Paraffin, Lanolin Anhydrous (wool fat), Glyceryl Monostearate,
			Cetyl Alcohol, Sodium Cetostearyl sulphate, Citric Acid Monohydrate (E330), Carbomer, Purified Water,
			Sodium Hydroxide, Sodium Methyl Hydroxybenzoate, Sodium Propyl Hydroxybenzoate.  Potential skin sensitizer: CetylCetostearyl/Stearyl alcohol, Lanolin derivatives and Phenoxyethanol
	Exmaben cream, 500g	£4.25	Ingredients: Yellow Soft Paraffin Bp, Liquid Paraffin Ph.Eur, Emulsifying Wax and Purified Water.
	Exmader cream, 500g	24.25	Potential skin sensitizer: Cetostearyl Alcohol, Sodium Lauryl Sulphate and Chlorocresol
Oat based emollients	AproDerm Colloidal Oat Cream,	£5.80	Ingredients: Avena Sativa Kernel Flour 1%, Purified Water, Olive Oil, Apricot Kernel Oil, Glycerin,
	500ml		Sucrose Stearate, Cetearyl Alcohol, Glyceryl Stearate SE, Dimethicone, Phenoxyethanol, Vitamin F
	3001111		Ethyl Ester, Ethylhexylglycerin, Xanthan Gum, Disodium EDTA, Vitamin E.
			Potential skin sensitizer: CetylCetostearyl/Stearyl alcohol
	Zeroveen, 500ml	£5.89	Ingredients: Glycerol, Isopropyl Palmitate, Liquid Paraffin, Distearyldimonium Chloride, Avena Sativa
			Kernel Flour, Cetyl Alcohol, Dimethicone, White Soft Paraffin, Benzyl Alcohol, Allantoin, Stearyl Alcohol,
			Allantoin, Stearyl Alcohol, Microcrystalline Wax, Myristyl Alcohol, Sodium Chloride, Purified Water.
			Potential skin sensitizer: Isoprogyl Palmitate, cetyl alcohol, benzyl alcohol, Stearyl alcohol and myristyl
0.51	A B 1500 /	00.00	alcohol
GEL	AproDerm gel, 500g (comparable	£3.99	Ingredients: Liquid Paraffin (15%) and Isopropyl Myristate (15%), Aqua, Glycerin, Polyacrylate-13,
Light we sistemisis a	to DoubleBase)		Polyisobutene, Polysorbate-20, Phenoxyethanol, Benzoic Acid, Dehydroacetic Acid, Ethylhexylglycerin.
Light moisturising	Zaradaubla gal E00g	£4.90	Potential skin sensitizers: Isopropyl myristate Ingredients: Isopropyl Myristate 15%, Liquid Paraffin 15%, Glycerol, Acrylate C10-C30 Alkyl Acrylate
properties	Zerodouble gel, 500g	24.90	Cross Polymer, Sorbitan Laurate, Triethanolamine, Phenoxyethanol and Purified Water.
(consider self-care)			Potential skin sensitizers: Triethanoiamine, Phenoxyethanol and Isopropyl myristate
(consider sen care)	DoubleBase gel, 500g	£5.83	Ingredients: isopropyl myristate (15% w/w) and liquid paraffin (15% w/w), glycerol, carbomer, sorbitan
	DoddioDado goi, odog	20.00	laurate, trolamine, phenoxyethanol and purified water.
			Potential skin sensitizers: Triethanoiamine, Phenoxyethanol and Isopropyl myristate
PARAFFIN FREE	Epimax Paraffin free ointment,	£4.99	Ingredients: plant derived hydrogenated Castor Oil.
	500g		Potential skin sensitizers: CetylCetostearyl/Stearyl alcohol
	AproDerm Colloidal Oat Cream,	£5.80	Ingredients: Avena Sativa Kernel Flour 1%, Purified Water, Olive Oil, Apricot Kernel Oil, Glycerin,
	500ml		Sucrose Stearate, Cetearyl Alcohol, Glyceryl Stearate SE, Dimethicone, Phenoxyethanol, Vitamin F
			Ethyl Ester, Ethylhexylglycerin, Xanthan Gum, Disodium EDTA, Vitamin E.
			Potential skin sensitizer: CetylCetostearyl/Stearyl alcohol

Guidance updated by Saiqa Mughal, Prescribing Advisor/QIPP Pharmacist, BHR CCGs Date:  $25^{\text{th}}$  October 2019, version 6

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Skin infection  For short term use	Dermol 500 lotion, 500ml	£6.04	Ingredients: Benzalkonium chloride (0.1% w/w), chlorhexidine dihydrochloride (0.1% w/w), liquid paraffin (2.5% w/w) and isopropyl myristate (2.5% w/w).  Potential skin sensitizers: Cetostearyl alcohol and isopropyl myristate
	Dermol cream, 500g	£6.63	Ingredients: Liquid paraffin, isopropyl myristate, benzalkonium chloride and chlorhexidine hydrochloride.  Potential skin sensitizers: Cetostearyl alcohol, benzalkonium chloride and phenoxyethanol
Urea containing emollients	ImuDERM cream, 500g	£6.55	Ingredients: Urea 5%, glycerol 5%. Potential skin sensitizers: CetylCetostearyl/Stearyl alcohol, benzalkonium chloride, phenethyl alcohol and cetrimonium bromide
	Flexitol 10% Urea Cream, 500g	£11.77	Ingredients: Urea 10%, Purified water, Ianolin, cetostearyl alcohol, glycerine, dimeticone, paraffin oil light, glyceryl monostearate, decyl oleate, PEG-20 stearate, phenoxyethanol, sodium PCA, shea butter, panthenol, tocopheryl acetate, benzyl alcohol, butylated hydroxytoluene, perfume.  Potential skin sensitizers: cetostearyl alcohol, phenoxyethanol, benzyl alcohol and perfume

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