

## Capsaicin cream

We are aware of intermittent challenges with the availability of capsaicin creams, which can be challenging for patients given the lack of suitable alternatives.

Capsaicin cream comes in two different strengths and due to differences in licensing these cannot be used interchangeably. Where challenges with supply occur this is important to be aware of during conversations with patients/prescribers.

The table below summarises key information regarding both products.

	<a href="#">Zacin®</a>	<a href="#">Axsain®</a>
Strength	0.025%	0.075%
Licensed indication (from SmPC)	For the symptomatic relief of pain associated with osteoarthritis.	1. For the symptomatic relief of neuralgia associated with and following Herpes Zoster infections (post-herpetic neuralgia) after open skin lesions have healed. 2. For the symptomatic management of painful diabetic peripheral polyneuropathy.
<a href="#">Grampian Area Formulary status</a> *	Green – for osteoarthritis	AMB1 – for diabetic neuropathy

\*It is important to note that the recommendations within the Grampian Area Formulary may not be fully in line with those in the SmPC.

Product licensing, alongside the MHRA hierarchy are important considerations while dealing with medicine shortages and should be reviewed before requesting or giving advice on alternative medications.