

## Aldara® (imiquimod) 5% cream – shortage

The following information has been produced following consultation and agreement with both the specialist dermatology service and sexual health service.

### Shortage information

A shortage of Aldara® (imiquimod) 5% cream has been identified. At present no resupply date is available.

When a resupply date has been released this will be communicated to consultants, prescribers and pharmacy teams.

### Stock information and availability

Imiquimod 5% cream is available as two branded products: Aldara® and Bascellex®. While these products contain the same active ingredient, their licensed indications differ:

<a href="#">Aldara®</a>	<a href="#">Bascellex®</a>
Nonhyperkeratotic, nonhypertrophic actinic keratoses (AKs) on the face or scalp	Nonhyperkeratotic, nonhypertrophic actinic keratoses (AKs) on the face or scalp
External genital and perianal warts	
Small superficial basal cell carcinomas	

### Formulary status

Imiquimod (as the brand Aldara®) is included in the Grampian Area Formulary for both dermatology and sexual health indications.

### Recommendation from specialist services (dermatology and sexual health service)

Where Aldara® is indicated, recommendations to primary care should will be made generically for 'imiquimod 5% cream'. This will allow for supply of an available branded product by community pharmacy.

### Actions for primary care

- Where prescribing of imiquimod is required/requested, please do so generically.
- Where prescribing is for genital warts or carcinomas, make the patient aware that due to medication shortages the product supplied to them may be off-label and as such the patient information leaflet may contain information which is not relevant to the medical condition for which they are being treated.

### Actions for community pharmacy

- Where imiquimod is prescribed, and Aldara® cannot be sourced, dispense Bascellex® against prescriptions for imiquimod.
- Patients should be advised that depending on prescribed indication, the patient information leaflet may not contain information relevant to their condition.