

Title

Update on prescribing for Acne in community pharmacy

Describe an unplanned event or activity that enabled you to learn something new or refresh your knowledge or skills



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As a prescriber (although not currently active) and in my work advising on prescribing in community pharmacy, I aim to keep up to date with changes in practice. One of the ways that I do this is by signing up to receive NICE updates so that I am aware of changes in practice that might affect my prescribing and the prescribing of others.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/news/nice-newsletters-and-alerts/subscribe-to-nice-news>

In a recent update, I noticed in Summer 2021, I noticed that there was an update for the treatment of Acne. As Acne is a common presentation at community pharmacies, with the pharmacy often being the first port of call. In Scotland, Benzoyl Peroxide (BPOH) is a product that is available on the Pharmacy First Approved list for treatment of Acne. It is perceived to be step one for mild symptoms and has been recommended for use as a single agent for up to 12 weeks as a reasonable trial of effect. As it is on PF List, all pharmacists whether or not they are prescribers can offer this treatment to patients. As a prescriber, I could have then reviewed and stepped up to an appropriate combination product if BPOH was not helping symptoms for another trial, after which I would have referred to a GP for review advising them of my previous actions to prevent any repeat of ineffective treatment. This would have been the treatment path I would have recommended in the Independent Prescribers formulary guidance we are developing for our HB area and it is also the current recommendations for Acne as a common clinical condition on TURAS Learn

NICE 198 - Acne Vulgaris Management: now recommends treatment with a combination product from the onset of any symptoms, which means that if following the guidance, unless you are a prescriber you may not be able to offer the recommended first line treatment for your patients and would require to refer onto a GP for treatment. BPOH is now only recommended as monotherapy in those for who wish to avoid a topical antibiotic or topical retinoid.

As I was not familiar with the combination products and their specific indications and contraindications, I decided to review them and think about how both myself and other prescribers would use them in a community pharmacy environment.

<https://www.mygphc.org/renewal>



Give an example of how this learning benefited the people using your services

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I raised awareness amongst other CP Independent prescribers of this change in prescribing practice within my HB area

I worked with a CPIP colleague to update the Acne section of the shared Pharmacy First Plus Formulary to reflect the changes

I helped organise and facilitate an evening online learning event to share and discuss this change in prescribing practice amongst CPIP peers in my HB area

I flagged up the change in guidance to NHS Education Scotland colleague so that the Acne Section in the Common Clinical Conditions sections of Turas Learn could be updated to reflect the updated guidance

Attendees of the above training will share the change in practice with colleagues to help improve the patient journey for patients with Acne Vulgaris (and when to refer to GP if they are not a prescriber)

I am using this information update to feed into a PGD group for Acne Management for use within my HB area.