Patient Group Direction (PGD)

This PGD authorises community pharmacists to supply fusidic acid 2% cream to children and adults presenting with symptoms of impetigo under NHS Pharmacy First Scotland.

Publication date: 14 August 2025

PGD Number: 2025/2850

Expires: 13 August 2028

Version 3.0

NHS SCOTLAND

Most Recent Changes

Version	Date	Summary of changes

3.0	August 2025	Version 2.0 PGD transferred into new NHS PFS template.
		• 1.1 Indication
		  ○ Moved paragraph on NICE guidance re hydrogen peroxide 1% as first line treatment from front cover to 'indication paragraph'.
		• 2.3 Dosage
		  ○ Changed from "gently" to "thin layer" to give clearer guidance on how much to apply.
		• 6.0 References
		  ○ Update to references for further reading.

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Authorisation

This PGD is not legally valid until it has had the relevant organisational authorisation.

PGD fusidic acid 2% cream

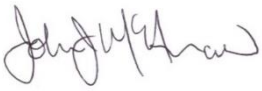
This specimen PGD template has been produced in collaboration with the Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group and the Primary Care Community Pharmacy Group to assist NHS Boards in the uniform provision of services under 'NHS Pharmacy First Scotland' banner across NHS Scotland. NHS Boards should ensure that the final PGD is considered and approved in line with local clinical governance arrangements for PGDs.

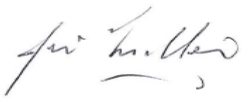
The community pharmacist who may supply fusidic acid 2% cream under this PGD can do so only as a named individual. It is the responsibility of each professional to practice within the bounds of their own competence and in accordance with the General Pharmaceutical Council Standards for Pharmacy Professionals and to ensure familiarity with the manufacturer's product information/summary of product characteristics (SPC) for all medicines supplied in accordance with this PGD.

NHS Board governance arrangements will indicate how records of staff authorised to operate this PGD will be maintained. Under PGD legislation there can be no delegation. Supply of the medicine must be by the same practitioner who has assessed the patient under the PGD.

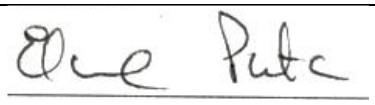
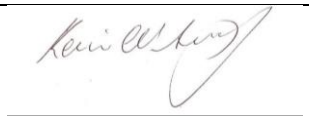
This PGD has been approved on behalf of NHS Scotland by NHS 24 by:

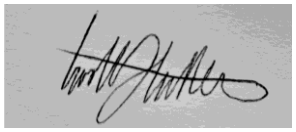
Doctor (Name / Signature): Dr Ron Cook 

Pharmacist (Name /Signature): Dr John McAnaw 

NHS Scotland representative (Name / Signature): Mr Jim Miller 

Approved on behalf of NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde by ADTC Patient Group Direction Sub Committee representatives:

Chair	Dr Craig Harrow	
Director of Pharmacy representative	Elaine Paton, Senior Prescribing Adviser	
Director of Nursing Representative	Kevin McAuley, Chief Nurse North Sector	

Antimicrobial use **If the PGD relates to an antimicrobial agent, the use must be supported by the NHS GG&C Antimicrobial Management Team (AMT). A member of this team must sign the PGD on behalf of the AMT.**		
Microbiology approval	Name: Scott Gillen  Signature: (on behalf of NHS GG&C AMT)	Designation: Antimicrobial Pharmacist Date: 14/06/2025

Date approved: …14th August 2025……Effective from: 14th August 2025

It is the responsibility of the person using the PGD to ensure they are using the most recent issue.

Expiry date: 13 August 2028

1. Clinical situation

1.1. Indication

Treatment of minor staphylococcal skin infections (impetigo).

NICE Guidelines 153 recommends that hydrogen peroxide 1% cream should be considered as first line treatment for patients with localised non-bullous impetigo who are not systemically unwell or at high risk of complications. Hydrogen peroxide 1% cream (Crystacide) is listed on the NHS Pharmacy First Scotland Approved List.

Please refer to your local Health Board policy for first line treatment of impetigo.

1.2. Inclusion criteria

Adults and children with minor / localised, uncomplicated skin infection.

The rash consists initially of vesicles with an erythematous base which easily rupture and are seldom observed. The exudate dries to form yellow-gold or yellow-brown crust which gradually thickens.

Patient must be present at the consultation.

Valid consent to receiving treatment under this PGD has been obtained.

1.3. Exclusion criteria

Widespread infection.

History of MRSA colonisation or infection.

Patient has had impetigo treated with an antibiotic (including fusidic acid 2% cream) within the last 3 months.

Patient is systemically unwell.

Hypersensitivity to fusidic acid or any of the excipients within the cream.

Patient has an underlying skin condition on the same area of the body as the impetigo.

Individuals for whom no valid consent has been received.

1.4. Cautions/need for further advice/ circumstances when further advice should be sought from a prescriber

Caution should be used in:

- Lesions present near the eye – care should be taken when applying cream near to the eye.
- Patients under one year of age – in some cases, impetigo management may require oral (or intravenous) antibiotics, especially in neonates. These children may need clinical review therefore appropriate safety-netting is essential e.g. if not improving, see GP.

1.5. Action if excluded

Refer to GP Practice / Out-of-hours (OOH) service and document reason for exclusion and any action taken in Patient Medication Record (PMR).

1.6. Action if patient declines

Advise on self-care to relieve symptoms and advise to see their GP practice if symptoms fail to resolve within five days or if symptoms worsen.

Advise patient to contact NHS 24 if becoming systemically unwell or rapidly spreading to large areas of the body during OOH period.

Ensure patient is aware of risks and consequences of declining treatment.

Document the reason for declining treatment and advice given in PMR.

2. Description of treatment

2.1. Name of medicine/form/strength

Fusidic acid 2% cream

2.2. Route of administration

Topical

2.3. Dosage

Thin layer to affected area.

2.4. Frequency

THREE or FOUR times daily

2.5. Duration of treatment

5 days

2.6. Maximum or minimum treatment period

Use for a maximum of 5 days. Maximum of one supply in three months.

2.7. Quantity to supply

1 x 15 g

2.8. ▼ black triangle medicines

No

2.9. Legal category

Prescription Only Medicine (POM).

In accordance with the MHRA all medicines **supplied** under a PGD **must** either be from over-labelled stock or be labelled appropriately in accordance with the regulatory body guidelines for the labelling of medicines for the professional providing the supply.

2.10. Is the use out with the SPC?

No.

2.11. Storage requirements

As per manufacturer's instructions.

Store below 25ºC in a cool, dry place.

2.12. Additional information

None

3. Adverse reactions

3.1. Warnings including possible adverse reactions and management of these

Please refer to current BNF or SPC for full details.

Side effects with this product are rare, however hypersensitivity reactions may occur. If a patient experiences any side effects that are intolerable or hypersensitivity reactions occur, the medication should be discontinued.

For a full list of side effects, refer to the marketing authorisation holder's Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC). A copy of the SPC must be available to the health professional supplying the medication under this PGD. This can be accessed on **www.medicines.org.uk.**

In the event of severe adverse reaction e.g., swelling of eyes, face, lips or throat, shortness of breath or wheezing, developing of rash, or feeling faint, individuals should be advised to seek medical advice immediately.

3.2. Reporting procedure for adverse reactions

Pharmacists should document and report all adverse incidents through their own internal governance systems.

All adverse reactions (actual and suspected) should be reported to the appropriate medical practitioner and recorded in the patient's medical record. Pharmacists should record in their PMR and inform the patient's GP as appropriate.

Where appropriate, healthcare professionals and individuals/carers should report suspected adverse reactions to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) using the Yellow Card reporting scheme. Yellow cards and guidance on their use are available at the back of the BNF or online at **www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard.**

3.3. Advice to patient or carer including written information

Written information to be given to individuals:

- Provide manufacturer's consumer information leaflet/patient information leaflet (PIL)

Verbal advice to be given to individuals/parent/carer:

- Wash hands before and after applying cream.
- Where possible, remove scabs by bathing with warm water before applying the cream.
- Impetigo is a very infectious condition. It is important to prevent infection spreading by using own flannels and towels (hot wash after use).
- Do not scratch or pick spots.
- If applicable, suggest applying cream three times day on school days (before school, after school and evening) and four times daily at other times.
- Do not share cream with anyone else.
- Inform the individual that they can report suspected adverse reactions to the MHRA using the Yellow Card reporting scheme on: **www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard.**

3.4. Monitoring

Not applicable

3.5. Follow up

Advise patient to seek further medical advice if the skin infection spreads or there is no improvement after 5 days. If the patient becomes systemically unwell or rapidly spreading to large areas of the body during OOH period, seek medical advice from NHS 24.

3.6. Additional facilities

The following should be available when the medication is supplied:

- An acceptable level of privacy to respect patient's rights to confidentiality and safety
- Access to a working telephone
- Access to medical support (this may be via telephone or email)
- Approved equipment for the disposal of used materials
- Clean and tidy work areas, including access to hand washing facilities or alcohol hand gel
- Access to current BNF (online version preferred)
    - BNF British National Formulary - NICE
    - BNF for Children British National Formulary - NICE
- Access to SmPC/PIL/Risk Minimisation Material:
    - Home - electronic medicines compendium (emc)
    - MHRA Products | Home
    - RMM Directory - (emc)
- Access to copy of current version of this PGD

4. Characteristics of staff authorised under the PGD

4.1. Professional qualifications

Pharmacist with current General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) registration.

Under PGD legislation there can be no delegation. Supply of the medication must be completed by the same practitioner who has assessed the patient under this PGD.

4.2. Specialist competencies or qualifications

Persons must only work under this PGD where they are competent to do so.

All persons operating this PGD must:

- Be familiar with fusidic acid cream and alert to changes in the manufacturer's product information/summary of product information.
- Have successfully complete the NES Pharmacy e-learning module:

  https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/34440/pharmacy/cpd-resources/impetigo-for-nhs-pharmacy-first-scotland

- Be able to assess the person's/ parent's/ carer's capacity to understand the nature of the purpose of the medication in order to give or refuse consent.

4.3. Continuing education and training

All practitioners operating under this PGD are responsible for:

- Maintaining their skills, knowledge, and their own professional level of competence in this area according to the General Pharmaceutical Council Standards for Pharmacy Professionals
- Ensuring they remain up to date with the use of medications included and be aware of local treatment recommendations.
- Attending approved training and training updates as appropriate.
- Undertake relevant continuing professional development when PGD or NES Pharmacy modules are updated.

5. Audit trail

5.1. Authorisation of supply

Pharmacists can be authorised to supply the medicine specified in this PGD when they have completed local Board requirements for service registration.

Pharmacists should complete the individual authorisation form contained in the PGD (Appendix 1) and submit to the relevant NHS Health Board prior to using the PGD.

5.2. Record of supply

All records must be clear, legible, contemporaneous and in an easily retrievable format to allow audit of practice.

A Universal Claim Framework (UCF) record of the screening and subsequent supply where appropriate, of the medicine specified in this PGD should be made in accordance with the NHS Pharmacy First Scotland service specification.

Pharmacists must record the following information, included in the assessment form, in the PMR (either paper or computer based):

- name of individual, address, date of birth / CHI number
- name of GP with whom the individual is registered (if known)
- confirmation that valid consent to be treated under this PGD was obtained (include details of parent/guardian/person with parental responsibility where applicable)
- details of presenting complaint and diagnosis
- details of medicine supplied - name of medicine, batch number and expiry date, with date of supply.
- details of exclusion criteria – why the medicine was not supplied (if applicable)

- advice given, including advice given if excluded or declines treatment under this PGD.
- details of any adverse drug reactions and actions taken
- referral arrangements (including self-care)
- signature and printed name of the pharmacist who undertook assessment of clinical suitability and, where appropriate, subsequently supplied the medicine.

The patient's GP (where known) should be provided with a copy of the GP notification form for the supply of fusidic acid 2% cream or appropriate referral on the same, or next available working day.

These records should be retained in accordance with national guidance[1] (see page 56 for standard retention periods summary table). Where local arrangements differ, clarification should be obtained through your Health Board Information Governance Lead.

All records of the drug(s) specified in this PGD will be filed with the normal records of medicines in each service. A designated person within each service will be responsible for auditing completion of drug forms and collation of data.

1. Scottish Government. *Scottish Government Records Management.* Edinburgh 2020. Available at **SG-HSC-Scotland-Records-Management-Code-of-Practice-2020-v20200602.pdf** (Accessed 13th August 2025)

6. Additional references

Practitioners operating the PGD must be familiar with:

1. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. Guideline 153 Impetigo: antimicrobial prescribing. February 2020. Available at **Impetigo: antimicrobial prescribing (nice.org.uk)** (Accessed 13 August 2025)

2. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). Clinical Knowledge Summaries (CKS). Impetigo. Last revised July 2024. Available at: **Impetigo | Health topics A to Z | CKS | NICE** (Accessed 13 August 2025)

3. Marketing authorisation holder's Summary of Product Characteristics. Electronic Medicines Compendium. **Fusidic acid 20mg/g cream - Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) - (emc) | 3364** (Accessed 13 August 2025)

4. Current edition of British National Formulary (BNF) **BNF British National Formulary - NICE,** and BNF for children **BNF for Children British National Formulary - NICE**

7. Individual authorisation (Appendix 1)

PGD FOR THE SUPPLY OF FUSIDIC ACID 2% CREAM BY COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS UNDER THE "NHS PHARMACY FIRST SCOTLAND" SERVICE

This PGD does not remove professional obligations and accountability.

It is the responsibility of each professional to practice within the bounds of their own competence and in accordance with the General Pharmaceutical Council Standards for Pharmacy Professionals.

Authorised staff should be provided with an individual copy of the clinical content of the PGD and a copy of the document showing their authorisation.

This authorisation sheet should be retained to serve as a record of those practitioners authorised to work under this PGD.

I have read and understood the PGD authorised by each of the NHS Boards I wish to operate in and agree to provide Fusidic Acid 2% cream only in accordance with the specific PGD.

Name of Pharmacist _____ GPhC Registration Number _____

Normal Pharmacy Location

(Only one Pharmacy name and contractor code is required for each Health Board area where appropriate. If you work in more than 3 Health Board areas, please use additional forms.)

Name of Pharmacy	Contractor Code	Health Board
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Choose an item.
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Choose an item.
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Choose an item.

Please indicate your position within the pharmacy by ticking one of the following:

Locum ☐ Employee ☐ Manager ☐ Owner ☐

Signature _____ Date _____

Please complete form, sign and send to each Health Board you work in.
Email and postal addresses are given overleaf.

NHS Board	Address	
Ayrshire & Arran	Complete MS Form available at **Patient Group Directions – NHS Ayrshire & Arran**	Microsoft Form
Borders	Complete MS Form available at **nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/our-services/pharmacies/community-pharmacy/patient-group-directions-(pgds)-and-unscheduled-care-(cpus)/**	Microsoft Form
Dumfries & Galloway	NHS Dumfries & Galloway, Primary Care Services, Ground Floor North, Mountainhall Treatment Centre, Bankend Rd, Dumfries, DG1 4TG **Dg.pcd@nhs.scot**	Please email or post
Fife	PGD Administrator, Pharmacy Services, NHS Fife, Pentland House, Lynebank Hospital, Halbeath Road, Dunfermline, KY11 4UW **Fife.pgd@nhs.scot**	Please email or post
Forth Valley	Community Pharmacy Services, Forth Valley Royal Hospital, Stirling Road, Larbert, FK5 4WR **fv.communitypharmacysupport@nhs.scot**	Please email or post
Grampian	Pharmaceutical Care Services Team Summerfield House, 2 Eday Road, Aberdeen, AB15 6RE **gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot**	Please email or post
Greater Glasgow & Clyde	Complete MS Form available at **PGDs - Greater Glasgow and Clyde**	Microsoft Form
Highland	Community Pharmacy Services, NHS Highland, Assynt House, Beechwood Park, Inverness. IV2 3BW **nhsh.cpsoffice@nhs.scot**	Please email or post
Lanarkshire	Pharmacy/Prescribing Admin Team, NHS Lanarkshire Headquarters, Kirklands, Fallside Road, Bothwell, G71 8BB **Pharmacy.AdminTeam@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk**	Please email or post
Lothian	No longer require pharmacists to return signed copies of PGDs. For any queries, please contact **loth.communitypharmacycontract.nhs.scot**	
Orkney	Pharmacy Department, The Balfour Hospital, Foreland Road, Kirkwall, KW15 1NZ Phone: 01856 888 911 **ork.pharmacyadmin@nhs.scot**	Please email or post
Shetland	Pharmacy Primary Care Services, NHS Shetland, Gilbert Bain Hospital, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0TB **shet.pharmacyprimarycare@nhs.scot**	Please email or post
Tayside	Diane Robertson Pharmacy Department, East Day Home, Kings Cross Hospital, Clepington Road, Dundee, DD3 8AE **TAY.pharmacydepartment@nhs.scot**	Please email or post
Western Isles	Michelle Taylor, Primary Care, 37 South Beach, Stornoway HS1 2BB **Michelle.taylor44@nhs.scot**	Please email or post

8. Version history

Version	Date	Summary of changes
1.0	March 2020	Original national PGD produced
2.0	August 2022	• Addition of statement regarding first line treatment of non-bullous impetigo for patients who are not systemically unwell or at high risk of complications – refer to local Health Board policy on use of hydrogen peroxide 1% cream (Crystacide) • Addition of covering statement regarding validity of PGD when approaching date for review of content. • Removal of lower age limit of 2 years. • Changes to inclusion to criteria to clarify symptoms of impetigo. • Amendment of exclusion criteria from multiple sites to widespread infection. • Removal of "concern about non-compliance with topical treatment" exclusion. • Update to guidance for children at school to minimise risk of spread of infection. • Addition of guidance on follow up required when patient becomes systemically unwell during OOH period.

3.0	August 2025	Version 2.0 PGD transferred into new NHS PFS template.
		• 1.1 Indication
		  ○ Moved paragraph on NICE guidance re hydrogen peroxide 1% as first line treatment from front cover to 'indication paragraph'.
		• 2.3 Dosage
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		• 6.0 References
		  ○ Update to references for further reading.