

Summary of restrictions to OTC supply by Community Pharmacy

This document can be used in the following scenarios: For use by prescribers when referring patients to buy an OTC medicine, to check it is licensed for the patient and the desired indication; for use by prescription clerks when receiving prescription requests from patients, and for use by care navigators to support queries about OTC products.

Please note: In general, community pharmacies are unable to supply OTC medicines for unlicensed OTC indications unless supported by PGD led or IP led services.

Restricted Medicine	Common Examples	OTC Indication(s)	Pregnancy/ breastfeeding excluded?	Other OTC restrictions	Age range permitted	Services to refer to if appropriate
Anti-histamine - Drowsy	Chorphenamine	Hay fever, vasomotor rhinitis, urticaria, angioneurotic oedema, reactions to food or medicines, serum reactions and insect bites	Yes both	Kidney or liver impairment Pts who have taken MAOI in previous 14 days	1yr or more	GP CPCS
Anti-histamine - Non-drowsy	Cetirizine, loratadine	Symptomatic treatment of allergic rhinitis and chronic idiopathic urticaria	Yes both		2yrs or more for hay fever 6yrs or more for chronic idiopathic urticaria	GP CPCS
Eye drops/ ointments	Chloramphenicol 0.5% eye drops, chloramphenicol 1% Ointment	Treatment of acute bacterial conjunctivitis	Pregnancy and/or breastfeeding	Indications other than bacterial conjunctivitis	2yrs or more (unless PGD led or IP led pharmacy service)	GP CPCS general or Pharmacy PGD led Extended Care Service Conjunctivitis treatment for 3 months to 2yrs
	Sodium cromoglicate eye drops	Relief and treatment of the eye symptoms of hay fever			6yrs or more	GP CPCS
Steroid nasal spray	Beclometasone nasal spray, fluticasone nasal spray	Prevention and treatment of allergic rhinitis, including hay fever	Yes both	Using or used other steroid medication	18yrs or more	GP CPCS
Steroid creams and Ointments	Hydrocortisone 1% cream/ointment	Treatment of allergic contact dermatitis, irritant dermatitis, insect bite reactions and mild to moderate eczema	Pregnancy	Not to be used on the face, anogenital region, broken or infected skin. Max use 7 days	10yrs or more	GP CPCS

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Steroid creams and Ointments	Clobetasone 0.05% cream	Short-term symptomatic treatment and control of patches of eczema and dermatitis (but not seborrhoeic dermatitis)	Pregnancy	Not to be used on the face, anogenital region, broken or infected skin. Max use 7 days.	12yrs or more	GP CPCS	
Topical Antifungals	Amorolfine 5% nail lacquer	Treatment of mild cases of distal and lateral subungual onychomycoses caused by dermatophytes, yeasts and moulds	Pregnancy	Maximum 2 nails affected.	18yrs or more	GP CPCS	
	Clotrimazole 1% cream	Skin infections due to dermatophytes, yeasts, moulds and other fungi		Diabetics; severe infections		GP CPCS	
	Clotrimazole 500mg pessary, Clotrimazole 10% intravaginal cream	Candidal vaginitis	Can be used during pregnancy, but only under the supervision of a physician or midwife (insert without the applicator)	First time sufferers require clinician diagnosis. Frequent attacks, other related symptoms, immunocompromised and diabetics.	Over 16 and under 60 years old	GP CPCS	
	Canesten Thrush cream 2%	Candidal vulvitis, candidal balanitis, adjunct to treatment of candidal vaginitis				GP CPCS	
	Clotrimazole / hydrocortisone cream	Candidal intertrigo	Pregnancy and/or breastfeeding	Not to be used on the face, eyes, mouth, mucous membranes, anogenital area, broken or infected skin. Max use 7 days	10yrs or more	GP CPCS	
	Miconazole 0.16%/2%	Ringworm / Athletes Foot	Use with caution	Lymphoedema or history of lower limb cellulitis Terbinafine only - Not to be used on face.		GP CPCS	
	Terbinafine 1%					18yrs or more	GP CPCS
	Ketoconazole 2%		Yes, both			16yrs or more	GP CPCS
Oral Antifungal	Fluconazole 150mg capsule	Candidal vaginitis, candidal balanitis	Pregnancy and/or breastfeeding		Over 16 and under 60 years old	GP CPCS	
Anti-inflammatory gels	Ibuprofen 5% gel	Topical analgesic and anti-inflammatory	Yes both	Pts with asthma, rhinitis or urticaria.	14 yrs or more	GP CPCS	

This summary has been prepared using PrescQIPP [Bulletin 320: Over the Counter Items PrescQIPP C.I.C](#) referencing the latest information available to us at the time of production. Log in is required to access source document for more detail. The SmPC will provide updates and changes to licensed indications for the medicines when supplied via NHS community pharmacies over the counter.

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