

Therapy and Guidelines Sub-Committee, British Association of Dermatologists

Prescribing Specials: Five Guiding Principles for Prescribers

The Therapy and Guidelines Sub-Committee of the British Association of Dermatologists has reviewed this draft document on the guiding principles for prescribing Specials produced by the National Prescribing Centre. It appears fairly comprehensive and is presented in a clear format.

However, there were some issues raised:

- P.3. penultimate bullet point. It was considered that the phrasing of this section somewhat belittled the efforts of the British Association of Dermatologists to rationalise the prescribing of dermatological Specials. An alternative form of words is suggested, such as: "In 2008, the British Association of Dermatologists reviewed the national use of dermatological Specials, and subsequently produced a rationalised formulary to improve access to and appropriate prescribing of Specials."
- This draft document mentions, but does not address, the pressing problem of the considerable variation in the cost to the NHS of Specials.
- We suggest that there is a link to the Specials section on the BAD website:
http://www.bad.org.uk/Portals/_Bad/Specials/BAD%20Specials%20Booklet.pdf
- Perhaps mention could be made of the lists of special-order manufacturers in the BNF and on the BAD website.

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