



## **British Association of Dermatologists**

### **Position statement for clobetasol propionate 0.05%, neomycin sulfate and nystatin (formerly Dermovate NN®) 2019**

The British Association of Dermatologists (BAD) is the professional body for dermatology representing over 95% of UK consultant dermatologists. It is a charity with charitable objects to improve the practice, teaching, training and research of Dermatology. It works with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), patient bodies and commissioners across the UK, advising on best practice and the provision of Dermatology services across all service settings.

Topical medications are a cornerstone of dermatological therapy, allowing many patients to avoid oral therapies, which have potential for more serious side-effects. An important topical medication is the combination of clobetasol propionate 0.05% with neomycin sulfate and nystatin. This preparation was previously manufactured under the name Dermovate NN® and is now only available as a generic cream and ointment. The BAD is aware that, in some areas in the U.K., it has become difficult to prescribe this for appropriate patients.

The BAD supports the short-term use of clobetasol propionate 0.05% with neomycin sulfate and nystatin, in severe resistant dermatoses, where there is no suitable alternative other than oral steroids or immunosuppressive therapy. This combination therapy is unique, allowing use of a very potent topical steroid on severe inflammatory conditions, with concurrent cover for localised infection. It is highly effective, so its use is normally in the short term, which reduces risks of antibiotic resistance.

If it is not available, patients with severe inflammatory skin diseases may have longer or more frequent periods in which their skin problem is inadequately controlled, leading to extra consultations in primary and secondary care. Patients unable to access this medication may have an increased need for hospitalisation, phototherapy or expensive systemic medications. Therefore, withholding this treatment may be a false economy, due to these potential extra costs. We strongly recommend that this medicine is made available by all CCGs to support the most clinically and cost-effective treatment of patients, whilst minimising the potential for side effects and hospitalisation.