



## **British Association of Dermatologists**

### **Position statement of Trimovate cream (clobetasone butyrate, nystatin, oxytetracycline calcium) 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.

It is of grave concern to the BAD that following the recent transfer of Trimovate cream manufacture and supply from GlaxoSmithKline to Ennogen Healthcare, some CCGs have denied patients access to this treatment. There were considerable efforts by the BAD, working with the DHSC, MHRA and the new manufacturer, to shorten the period of supply shortage (during which time Trimovate was classed as a 'special') and to restore full access for patients.

Due to these efforts, Trimovate cream was available from major wholesalers from January 2019 as a licensed drug.

Trimovate is an essential and unique preparation and is the most cost-effective option in managing various distressing and debilitating skin conditions, particularly in the elderly, those living with HIV and other vulnerable groups. These include complex flexural dermatoses which, if untreated, can lead to sepsis and hospital admissions.

It has an excellent safety record and few contraindications. Like many older, well established, low-cost treatments, the evidence for its use is expert clinical consensus. There is no economic argument for doing high-cost clinical studies.

#### **There are no equivalent and equally efficacious topical treatments.**

There are hidden costs in making unsuitable substitutions for Trimovate cream, due to lack of efficacy, leading to longer lengths of stay in hospital, and more GP, outpatient and District Nurse visits. Inflammatory dermatoses are treated in a stepwise manner, beginning with topical agents before moving on to systemic treatments, and then biological drugs. It is a false economy to restrict a unique topical treatment which has overwhelming evidence of efficacy based on clinical experience.

The position of the British Association of Dermatologists is that UK formularies in primary and secondary care should all include Trimovate cream as a Green Drug.