

Appendix 1 - Template letters for patients

To

«PATIENT_Title» «PATIENT_Forename1» «PATIENT_Surname»
«PATIENT_House» «PATIENT_Road»
«PATIENT_Locality»
«PATIENT_Town»
«PATIENT_County»
«PATIENT_Postcode»

Dear «PATIENT_Title». «PATIENT_Surname»

Re: Change to Your Prescriptions – Emollients (skin product)

Basildon and Brentwood CCG/Thurrock CCG has been working with the local hospital dermatologists to review our prescribing of emollients in line with local formulary recommendations. As part of this, the doctors have made some minor changes to your next repeat prescription. This is to enable us to continue high quality treatment and, at the same time to make effective use of the resources available to the practice.

We are changing your _____cream/ointment/gel/lotion to *{insert first line choice cream/ointment/gel/lotion}*. The new emollient is considered interchangeable. There should be no difference in the effectiveness of the emollient, and you should not notice any change or problems. The emollient can be used to moisturise the skin as well as being suitable as a soap substitute.

To help reduce wastes please finish your remaining stock of emollient, before starting *{insert first line choice cream/ointment/gel/lotion}*.

We hope that you will understand this change in your prescription; if you have any queries, do not hesitate to speak with your community pharmacist, nurse or GP.

Yours Sincerely

{GP practice signature}

To

«PATIENT_Title» «PATIENT_Forename1» «PATIENT_Surname»

«PATIENT_House» «PATIENT_Road»

«PATIENT_Locality»

«PATIENT_Town»

«PATIENT_County»

«PATIENT_Postcode»

«Date»

Dear «PATIENT_Title». «PATIENT_Surname»

A change to your prescription for your bath and/or shower gel, these products will no longer be prescribed for you.

As a practice we have been working with local hospital dermatologists (skin doctors) to review our prescribing of emollients (moisturisers - bath additives and shower gels) in line with South East London Area Prescribing Committee recommendations.

Products for showering and bath additives are no longer considered by dermatologists to be an essential component of total moisturising therapy and the amount of moisturiser deposited on the skin from the bath/shower product is lower than with directly applied moisturising creams or ointments. It also coats the bath and makes it greasy and slippery. As an alternative, 1-2 tablespoons of any ointment (except 50:50) can be dissolved in some hot water and added to the bath water as a bath additive. You should also continue to use your moisturiser as skin cleanser or soap substitute as before.

Nationally the prescribing of moisturisers on the NHS is not recommended for patients who do not have a diagnosed skin condition e.g. eczema or risk to skin integrity (breakdown of skin). If you have a diagnosed skin condition e.g. eczema, psoriasis, you may be eligible to receive a cream or ointment on prescription. Please contact the surgery to book an appointment to review this.

We hope that you will understand why we have made this change to your prescription. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to speak to your community pharmacist, nurse or GP.

Please refer to the accompanying patient leaflet for getting the best results from your emollient.

Yours sincerely,

{GP practice signature}