

- c. Product-specific cautions (or additional labelling requirements) 'For external use only' will need to be added to the label as the product is a cream for external use.
- d. Directions to patient – interpretation of Latin abbreviations where necessary 'Apply TWICE a day.'
- e. Recommended *British National Formulary* cautions when suitable
The *British National Formulary* (51st edn, p 577) recommends the following caution:
Label 28 – 'To be spread thinly...'
- f. Discard date
The product is a cream and so would normally attract a 4-week discard date. However, as the product is a diluted proprietary cream, it is common to assign a shorter 2-week discard date.
- g. Sample label (you can assume that the name and address of the pharmacy and the words 'Keep out of the reach of children' are pre-printed on the label):

Dermovate Cream 25% w/w		50 g
To be spread thinly TWICE a day.		
For external use only		
Do not use after (2 weeks)		
The product contains:		
Dermovate Cream	25%	
Cetomacrogol Cream (Formula A) BPC	75%	
Mr Peter Johnson	Date of dispensing	

7. Advice to patient

The patient would be advised to apply the cream thinly/sparingly twice a day. In addition, the discard date and the fact that the product is for external use only would be highlighted to the patient.

Self-assessment

Questions

1. Which statement is true?

- a. Creams are occlusive.
- b. Creams are always water-in-oil emulsions.
- c. The surfactant in creams allows better skin penetration than in ointments.
- d. Creams are less susceptible than ointments to microbial contamination.

2. How many grams of Betnovate Cream are contained in 200 g of a 1 in 20 dilution of Betnovate Cream in Aqueous Cream BP?

- a. 2 g
- b. 10 g
- c. 20 g
- d. 50 g