

The Lotion
 Containing:
 Sodium Chloride BP 8 g
 Freshly boiled and cooled purified water to 200 ml

OR

The Lotion
 Containing:
 Sodium Chloride BP 4%
 Freshly boiled and cooled purified water to 100%

4. Labels must also include an expiry date. See Table 1.1 for guidance. The Medicines Act 1968 (as amended) requires medicinal products to specify a month and year after which the product should not be used. However, in practice this can cause confusion and an alternative format is to show expiry as a single discard date: for example, 'Discard after 31.01.07'.
5. Warning labels may also be required. These may be pharmaceutical or pharmacological warnings (see labelling appendix in the *British National Formulary*). Generally if there is a choice between two warning labels with equivalent meaning, the positive one should be chosen (e.g. 'For rectal use only' is preferable to 'Do not swallow' for suppositories).

Table 1.1 gives guidance on the use of additional auxiliary labels. Within the UK, the term 'For external use only' is used on any preparation intended for external use. The Medicines Act 1968 defines products for external use as embrocations, liniments, lotions, liquid antiseptics, other liquids or gels for external use.

However, traditionally, for the following dosage forms, alternative labels have been employed instead of 'For external use only' to reflect more closely the intended purpose of the product. These alternative labels are (indicated on Table 1.1 by '*'):

- Enemas: 'For rectal use only'
- Gargles and mouthwashes: 'Not to be taken'
- Inhalations: 'Not to be taken'
- Nasal drops: 'Not to be taken'
- Pessaries: 'For vaginal use only'
- Suppositories: 'For rectal use only'.

Pharmacists should use their professional judgement when deciding which auxiliary labels should be applied to different

KeyPoints

Remember, the label of a pharmaceutical product will need to indicate the contents.

- For official preparations, it will be sufficient to put the official title (as this indicates the contents).
- For unofficial products, the formula will need to be detailed on the label. For internal products this information is given per dose; for external products, per container.