

Example 6.5**Unofficial ointment request from local doctor**

You receive a prescription in your pharmacy with the following details:

Patient:	Ms Daphne Stokes, 74 Fish Street, Astonbury
Age:	42
Prescription:	Salicylic Acid 2% in Betnovate Ointment
Directions:	Apply mdu
Mitte:	40 g

1. Use of the product

Used to treat psoriasis (Salicylic Acid: *Martindale* 33rd edn, p 1122; Betnovate Ointment: *British National Formulary* 51st edn, p 576).

2. Is it safe and suitable for the intended purpose?

The suitability of the product formula must be decided by the compounder. Refer to a diluent directory which in this case states that up to 5% of Salicylic Acid BP can be added to Betnovate Ointment. Had the formula requested Betnovate Cream, this would have been unsuitable as the Salicylic Acid BP causes the cream to crack. The suggested frequency of application for Betnovate Ointment is to apply thinly 1–2 times daily (*British National Formulary* 51st edn, p 576). Therefore, the product is safe and suitable for use.

3. Calculation of formula for preparation

Prepare 40 g of Salicylic Acid BP 2% in Betnovate Ointment. Note: Suitable sources to provide information on the dilution of creams and ointments would be:

- National Pharmacy Association *Diluent Directory*
- product data sheet (Summary of Product Characteristics – SPC)
- reports in the pharmaceutical literature
- personal contact with product manufacturer.

Product formula

	Master	100 g	10 g	50 g
Salicylic Acid BP	2 %	2 g	200 mg	1 g
Betnovate Ointment	98 %	98 g	9.8 g	49 g

4. Method of preparation**a. Solubility where applicable**

Not applicable.

b. Vehicle/diluent

Betnovate Ointment is used as the base as per the product formula.