

f. Discard date

The product is an ointment and so would normally attract a 3-month discard date. However, as the product is a diluted proprietary ointment, 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):

| | | |
|--|-----|--------------------|
| Salicylic Acid 2% in Betnovate Ointment | | 40 g |
| Apply as directed. | | |
| For external use only | | |
| Do not use after (2 weeks) | | |
| The product contains: | | |
| Salicylic Acid BP | 2% | |
| Betnovate Ointment | 98% | |
| Ms Daphne Stokes | | Date of dispensing |

7. Advice to patient

The patient would be advised to apply the ointment as directed. In addition, the discard date and the fact that the product is for external use only would be highlighted to the patient. If further direction for use is requested, as the preparation contains Betnovate Ointment the patient could be advised to apply the ointment thinly 1–2 times daily (*British National Formulary* 51st edn, p 576). In addition, although the concentration of Salicylic Acid BP is quite low when compared to preparations used in the treatment of warts and hard skin, it will act as a keratolytic and so a maximum application frequency of once or twice a day would also be appropriate.

Example 6.6**The preparation of Compound Zinc Paste BP**

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

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Patient: | Mrs Sandra Jones, 6 Summet Drive, Astonbury |
| Age: | 56 |
| Prescription: | Compound Zinc Paste BP |
| Directions: | paa tds |
| Mitte: | 20 g |

1. Use of the product

Mild astringent (*Martindale* 33rd edn, p 1128).