

Example 6.7**The preparation of Zinc and Coal Tar Paste BP**

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

Patient:	Mr Scott Bird, 24 Fleet Drive, Astonbury
Age:	38
Prescription:	Zinc and Coal Tar Paste BP
Directions:	Apply bd mdu
Mitte:	20 g

1. Use of the product

Used to treat psoriasis (and occasionally chronic atopic eczema) (*British National Formulary* 51st edn, pp 582–583).

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

This is an official preparation, therefore the formula is safe and suitable for purpose. The *British National Formulary* (51st edn, p 583) suggests an application frequency of 1–2 times daily which is consistent with the prescription).

3. Calculation of formula for preparation

Prepare 20 g Zinc and Coal Tar Paste BP.

Product formula

(from the *British Pharmacopoeia* 2004, page 2810)

	Master	100 g	10 g	30 g
Emulsifying Wax BP	50 g	5 g	500 mg	1.5 g
Coal Tar BP	60 g	6 g	600 mg	1.8 g
Zinc Oxide BP	60 g	6 g	600 mg	1.8 g
Starch BP	380 g	38 g	3.8 g	11.4 g
Yellow Soft Paraffin BP	450 g	45 g	4.5 g	13.5 g

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

Not applicable.

b. Vehicle/diluent

Yellow Soft Paraffin BP is used as the diluent as per the product formula.

c. Preservative

There is no preservative included as per the product formula.

d. Flavouring when appropriate

Pastes are for external use and so no flavouring is required.

The following method would be used to prepare 30 g of Zinc and Coal Tar Paste BP from the formula above: