

Example 6.2**The preparation of Calamine and Coal Tar Ointment BP**

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

Patient:	Mr Kenny Doyle, 13 Acres Street, Astonbury
Age:	38
Prescription:	Calamine and Coal Tar Ointment BP
Directions:	Apply once or twice daily
Mitte:	20 g

1. Use of the product

The product is used to treat psoriasis and occasionally chronic atopic eczema (*British National Formulary* 51st edn, p 582).

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 582) suggests an application frequency of 1–2 times daily, which corresponds to the prescribed frequency.

3. Calculation of formula for preparation

Prepare 20 g Calamine and Coal Tar Ointment BP.

Product formula

(from the *British Pharmacopoeia* 2004, p 2233):

	Master	100 g	10 g	30 g
Calamine BP	125 g	12.5 g	1.25 g	3.75 g
Strong Coal Tar Solution BP	25 g	2.5 g	0.25 g	0.75 g
Zinc Oxide BP	125 g	12.5 g	1.25 g	3.75 g
Hydrous Wool Fat BP	250 g	25 g	2.5 g	7.5 g
White Soft Paraffin BP	475 g	47.5 g	4.75 g	14.25 g

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

Not applicable.

b. Vehicle/diluent

White 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

Ointments are for external use and so no flavouring is required

Tips

The exact quantity cannot be prepared for an ointment, a suitable overage must be produced in order to dispense the required amount.

Note that the quantity of Strong Coal Tar Solution BP is in grams and so must be weighed.