

What's new in Dermatology 4

Some of the new information and major changes included in *Therapeutic Guidelines: Dermatology*, version 4

All topics in Dermatology guidelines, version 4, were discussed in detail by the expert writing group and updated.

The main changes in version 4 are intended to make the guideline:

- **more helpful**, with
 - › a stronger focus on advice needed in primary care
 - › an increased number of specific drug recommendations (in *eTG complete*, drug recommendations have an 'i button' with direct access to PBS information and advice on the drug's safety in pregnancy and breastfeeding)
 - › new management algorithms for acne and itch without rash
 - › new tables and figures (see below)
- **easier to access**, including
 - › a more simplified structure with advice on a topic (eg atopic dermatitis, psoriasis) in one place
 - › more concise text.

For dermatitis, **topical corticosteroids** are still the mainstay of therapy, but the way they are used has changed. Effective treatment for atopic dermatitis restores normal function of the epidermal barrier.

As an aid to prescribing, a new table lists **topical drug quantities** that are appropriate for adequate treatment for different areas of the body.

Advice on **managing psoriasis in primary care** has been expanded, including specific drug recommendations for treating psoriasis according to location or type.

Nail disorders are common, and many look alike. The importance of a correct diagnosis before starting treatment is emphasised, as about half the cases are not due to a fungal infection. A diagram of the nail anatomy has been added.

Hidradenitis suppurativa is a distressing condition that presents relatively often in primary care—new text has specific advice on several strategies.

New tables have been added to help the practitioner distinguish between the different types of **alopecia of the scalp** and the main causes of localised or patchy scalp hair loss in children. Another new table summarises the hair growth cycle on the scalp.

Advice on managing different types of **cutaneous drug reactions** has been simplified, including an overview table.

Treatment for **acute and chronic urticaria** is presented as a series of five steps.

Readers with access to *eTG complete* can print out patient and practitioner information sheets on acne, how to apply a wet dressing, how to use the soak and smear technique, how to care for skin after liquid nitrogen cryotherapy, and how to perform a skin check.

**For more information and orders visit www.tg.org.au
or freecall 1800 061 260 (within Australia)**

 **Therapeutic
Guidelines**

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An *eTG complete*
app for Apple and
Android will be
available in 2016.