

Tayside Area Formulary: Topical Steroids

Topical Steroid Potency	First Line	Second Line	Comments
Mild	Hydrocortisone 1% oint(15g)/cream(30g)	N/A	0.5% & 2.5% are clinically the same potency and are less cost effective.
Moderate	Betamethasone valerate 0.025% oint/cream (100g)	N/A	Betamethasone valerate 0.025% is the most cost effective choice for patients who will likely require more than 30g.
	Clobavate® ointment* (30g) <i>Clobetasone butyrate 0.05%</i>		
	Eumovate® cream* (30g) <i>Clobetasone butyrate 0.05%</i>		
Potent	Betamethasone valerate 0.1% oint/cream (30g/100g)	Locoid® oint/cream (100g) <i>Hydrocortisone butyrate 0.1%</i> When alternative steroid required Diprosone® oint/cream (30/100g) <i>Betamethasone dipropionate 0.05%</i> When increase in potency required	Prescribe 100g tube for patients who will likely need more than 30g.
Very potent	Clobetasol propionate 0.05% oint/cream (30g)	N/A	Not generally intended for repeat prescribing, exceptions include; lichen sclerosus and lupus.

In general, ointments are preferred as they are less likely to cause skin irritation.

*Brand name prescribing of topical steroids can provide better value for NHS.