

SONNING COMMON HEALTH CENTRE

Wood Lane, Sonning Common, Reading, RG4 9SW
Tel: 0118 972 2188 Appointments: 0118 972 2745

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Dear Patient

Prescription for moisturiser/emollient/bath oil

You are currently being prescribed a cream or treatment which is no longer on the Oxfordshire formulary, and therefore we cannot continue prescribing it.

- If you are prescribed a **moisturiser/emollient** we have switched it to one we are able to use, and which is as similar as we can issue. If after trying it you preferred the original preparation, these are still available to buy from a pharmacy and can be purchased without a prescription.
- If you were prescribed a **bath oil type preparation** these are no longer available on prescription. This is due to a lack of scientific evidence that bath oils work. They can be purchased without a prescription from a pharmacy. Another option is to use the emollient/moisturiser cream you are prescribed as a soap substitute whilst bathing.

We would like to remind you that if you are using a paraffin-based cream that these can remain present in your clothing even after washing and there is currently a warning that smoking or a naked flame could cause dressings or clothing to catch fire when being treated with paraffin-based emollient. The current guidance advises:

- Not to smoke; use naked flames (or be near people who are smoking or using naked flames); or go near anything that may cause a fire while emollients are in contact with your medical dressings or clothing.
- Change clothing and bedding regularly - preferably daily - because emollients soak into fabric and can become a fire hazard.

Further information can be found at <http://www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/resources/patientinformation/dermatology/emollients.pdf>. Please contact us for a telephone appointment if you continue to have unanswered questions.

Yours sincerely

Dr Nick Smith

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