

## EMOLLIENT AND BARRIER CREAMS FOR CARE HOME RESIDENTS

Emollients and barrier creams can be prescribed for patients with a known and documented dermatological condition such as eczema, psoriasis or symptomatic xerosis or pruritus caused by systemic disease that threatens skin integrity. Product choice should always be based in line with [WECCG Dermatology Formulary](#).

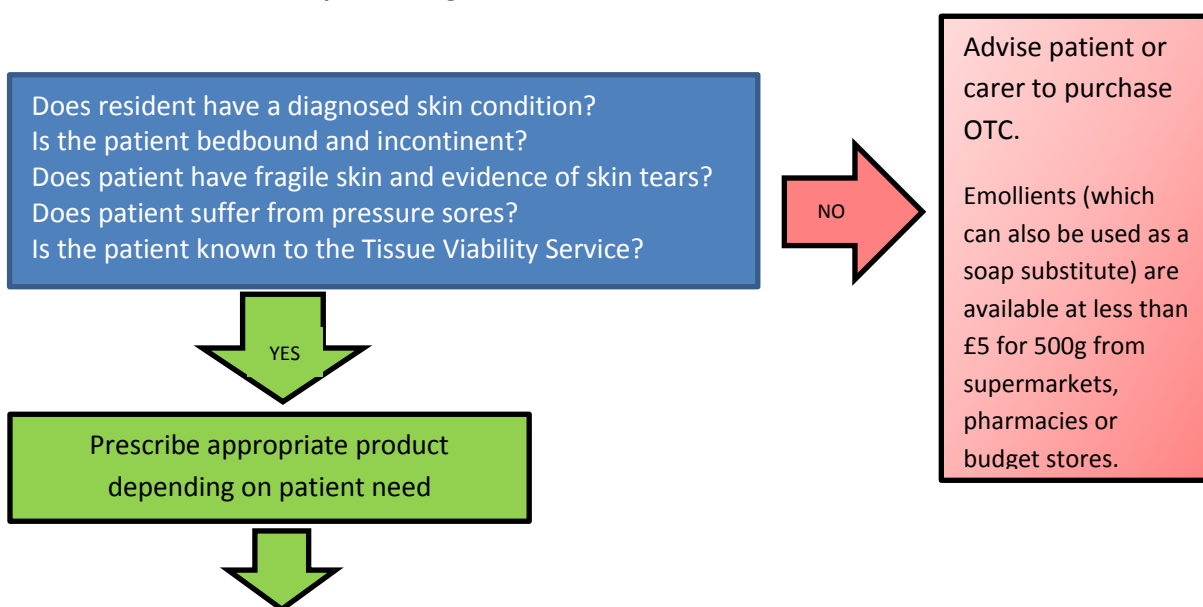
Emollients can be purchased over the counter (OTC) by patients who do not have a diagnosed dermatological condition in line with [WECCG OTC policy](#). Patients with mild dry skin can be successfully managed using over the counter products on a long term basis. Emollients are often used to help manage dry, itchy or scaly skin conditions.

[Care Quality Commission](#) expects patients to be ‘supported to access OTC products to enable them to self-care, with the appropriate safeguards put in place’ for adults in social care.

All adults in social care are allocated a minimum personal allowance (approximately £24 per week) for purchasing of items for their personal needs. Safeguarding of vulnerable patients should always be considered to enable all patients to live free from harm, abuse and neglect.

Using soaps can worsen dry skin conditions and it is advisable to use an emollient instead for washing purposes, this is known as a soap substitute. Advise **ALL** patients who use emollient products not to smoke or go near naked flames, and warn about the easy ignition of clothing, bedding, dressings, and other fabric that have dried residue of an emollient product on them.

### Points to consider before prescribing for care home residents:



	Emollient Cream	Emollient Ointment	Barrier Cream
<b>1<sup>st</sup> line</b>	Epimax <sup>®</sup> Cream/Epimax <sup>®</sup> Original Cream ZeroAQS <sup>®</sup> cream	Epimax <sup>®</sup> Ointment Zeroderm <sup>®</sup> Ointment	Cavilon <sup>®</sup> Durable Barrier cream
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> line</b>	E45 <sup>®</sup> Cream Diprobase <sup>®</sup> cream Zerobase <sup>®</sup>	Emulsifying Ointment Hydromol <sup>®</sup> Ointment	Aproderm <sup>®</sup> Barrier cream