

CHS115 Apply topical medications to treat dermatological conditions

OVERVIEW

This standard is about the application of safe and effective topical medications for dermatological conditions. It may be undertaken in a wide range of healthcare settings for both adults and children. This standard will be relevant to the application of topical medications for individuals, both adults and children who may be in-patients, in out-patients, in ambulatory settings and in general practice. Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies. Version No 1

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

You will need to know and understand:

- 1.the function, adverse effects, contra-indications and interaction problems associated with commonly prescribed topical medication
- 2.procedures and protocols associated with the treatment of dermatological conditions by topical medications
- 3.the factors that determine when additional or alternative topical medications would be required and prescribed
- 4.basic pharmacology and its application to dermatological conditions
- 5.methods for application of emollients and how to assess and recognise potential reactions that put the individual at risk
- 6.the factors that influence the choice of preparation for treatment of dermatological conditions
- 7.how to assist individuals to apply topical medications
- 8.methods of monitoring treatment for specific dermatological conditions
- 9.advice and guidance that may be offered to individuals regarding life style changes while taking medication or following withdrawal of medication
- 10.the importance of compliance and individual awareness of the long term nature of his/her medication regime
- 11.the sources of support, advice and information which may prove helpful to individuals
- 12.the criteria for referral of individuals for additional assessment or change of medication
- 13.the pathophysiology of common dermatological conditions
- 14.the mechanics of transmission of infection and the implications of infection for individuals, their families and carers
- 15.the major childhood dermatological and associated conditions and their presenting

features

- 16.statutory requirements relating to prescription
- 17.the range of credible information sources information relating to the application and use of topical medications
- 18.the type of anxieties, concerns and perceptions of individuals in relation to the application of topical medications
- 19.how to communicate, reassure and assist individuals during the application of topical medications
- 20.your own role, responsibilities, limitations, level of competence and authority in relation to the application of topical medications for dermatological conditions.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

You must be able to do the following:

- 1.apply standard precautions for infection control and other health and safety measures
- 2.confirm individual identity prior to administration of medication
- 3.obtain, or review all existing information concerning the reason for referral or follow up
- 4.explain the process, procedure, potential side effects and need for adherence to treatment regime to the individual and confirm their knowledge
- 5.respond to the concerns, anxieties and perceptions of individuals and carers regarding the use and application of topical medications
- 6.identify any contra-indications to the application of selected treatment and take action to avoid potential risks to the individual's health
- 7.apply topical medications:
 - 1.in accordance with product protocol
 - 2.in such a way as to minimise pain, itching or unnecessary discomfort
- 8.assess the long-term effects of application and manage or refer any adverse reactions that may put the individual at risk
- 9.maintain complete, accurate records of treatment, including any assumptions made and make these available for future reference in line with organisational practice
- 10.initiate action for referral or further appointments to meet the needs of the individual and provide the best possible outcome for the individual
- 11.ensure that the individual has a follow up appointment scheduled

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This National Occupational Standard was developed by Skills for Health. This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004): Dimension: HWB6 Assessment and treatment planning