

Bath additive and emollient briefing

Please note that this document has not been updated for the 2026-27 incentive scheme. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for medicines optimisation switches/reviews, along with other supporting materials, were originally developed for use by Medicines Optimisation Team staff within NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB). Other organisations or groups choosing to use this resource does so at their own risk and NHS SY ICB accepts no liability for its use or application.

Bath additives.

Following [NICE CG57](#) amendments in 2023, emollient bath additives are not recommended in children under 12 in the treatment of atopic eczema. [NHS England](#) is also supporting this decision in recommending emollient bath additives under 'Items where prescribing may be appropriate in some exceptional circumstances. Recommendation include:

This includes the following:

- Do not initiate in primary care.
 - Deprescribe in patients currently prescribed this item.
 - Prescribe only if no other item or intervention is clinically appropriate.
 - Prescribe only if no other item or intervention is available.
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1. Deprescribing of emollient bath additives and soap/shower substitutes can take place.
 2. If an emollient bath additive is prescribed under clear dermatology instructions, the item can be continued. Please consider discussing with GPs if this is a historic prescription dating a few years back.
 3. Ensure that patients with eczema have enough of the emollient prescribed for their condition management.