



Centre for Disease Control

NT HEALTH

Issued: 17th May 2024

Issued by: CDC

Issued to: Health Practitioners

Medicine Shortage – Topical Scabicial Treatments

Summary

There is a national shortage of permethrin 5% cream (Lyclear®) and benzyl benzoate 25% lotion (Benzumul®) used to treat scabies. The permethrin and benzyl benzoate shortage is anticipated to resolve by July 2024.

Changes to scabies and crusted scabies treatment have been recommended during the shortage. Visit this website for further information: [Medicine Shortage – Topical Scabicial Treatments](#) (NT Health intranet).

Speak to your usual pharmacist about ordering available topical scabicial treatments.

Actions

Prioritisation of supply during the shortage

- **Ivermectin** is the recommended first-line treatment in simple, complicated, and crusted scabies for all patients over 5 years of age or >15 kg, unless they:
 - Have hypersensitivity to ivermectin and its components
 - Are pregnant or breastfeeding
 - Are in clinical situations where drug interactions cannot be monitored, notably for patients treated with warfarin.

Ivermectin may be used in children 2 months to 5 years old under advice from a Paediatric Infectious Diseases Specialist (contact via RDH switchboard 8922 8888).

- **Permethrin** is the recommended treatment for patients over 2 months of age where oral ivermectin is not appropriate.
- **Crotamiton** is the recommended topical treatment for children less than 2 months of age.
 - Crotamiton is the second line topical treatment for all other patients if first-line options are not available.
- **Benzyl benzoate** is the recommended topical treatment for crusted scabies if available.

The following table summarises the recommended treatments for scabies in **children** by age group during the shortage:

Age group	First line treatment	Second line treatment
0 to <2 months old	Crotamiton	N/A
2 to 12 months old	Permethrin	Crotamiton, Ivermectin*
12 months to 5 years old	Permethrin	Ivermectin*, or Crotamiton if permethrin unavailable
Over 5 years old	Ivermectin	Permethrin, Crotamiton if permethrin unavailable

* Ivermectin may be used for these ages under instruction from a Paediatric Infectious Diseases Specialist

For more information and resources for scabies and crusted scabies, visit the following link:

[Scabies and crusted scabies | NT Health](#)

Contact your regional CDC unit on the following numbers:

Darwin	(08) 8922 8044	Katherine	(08) 8973 9041	Nhulunbuy	(08) 8987 0357
Tennant Creek	(08) 8932 4259	Alice Springs	(08) 8951 7540		

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Centre for Disease Control
Public Health Division

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