PREScribing POLICY: CAMouFLAGE (COVERING) CREAMs AND POWders

- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group does not routinely commission cosmetic treatments.
- Patients are able to purchase camouflage creams and powders on the high street, on-line and via local community pharmacies.
- It is recommended that prescribing of camouflage creams and powders on the NHS should only be considered in exceptional cases via prior approval through the exceptional cases team. Photographs to show the extent of the condition to be masked should be submitted with the approval.
- Exceptional needs will be considered for approval where the patient is unable or unwilling to self care AND requires camouflage creams / fixing powders as an adjunctive therapy in the relief of emotional disturbances due to severe disfiguring of the face and an altered image, as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Borderline Substances:
  - Scars on the face resulting from postoperative, accident, skin condition, skin disease, self-harm, act of violence, burns, acne
  - Birth marks on the face
  - Hyperpigmentation on the face
  - Melasma on the face
  - Vitiligo on the face
- Where exceptionality is agreed, prescribing should be done as an ‘acute prescription’ and not added to the patients repeat.

Background
This document aims to outline the criteria by which camouflage creams and powders should be prescribed at NHS expense.

Availability of camouflage creams and powders
Camouflage creams and powders can be purchased on the high street, on-line and via local community pharmacies. The brands currently available are not expensive to buy when measured against how little product is required to cover a large area and expiry once opened.

Many camouflage creams and powders can not be prescribed on the NHS (Drug Tariff Part XVIIIA).

Camouflage creams and powder on the NHS.
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Details of the exceptional and individual funding request process is available at [http://www.cambsphn.nhs.uk/CCPF/ExcptnalandIFR.aspx](http://www.cambsphn.nhs.uk/CCPF/ExcptnalandIFR.aspx)

Where exceptional need has been supported and the patient is unable to self-care, the following products are allowed on prescription:

- Covermark Classic Foundation
- Keromask Finishing Powder
- Covermark Finishing Powder
- Keromask Masking Cream
- Dermacolor Camouflage Cream
- Veil Cover Cream
- Dermacolor Fixing Powder
- Veil Finishing Powder

Camouflage creams and powders last between six months and three years, depending on the product, the area to be camouflaged and the frequency of use. If a prescription is provided this should be done as an ‘acute’ prescription and not added to repeat. A small amount of cream should cover a large area if applied correctly. For patients who request prescriptions frequently review application area and technique.

Providers commissioned to provide services on behalf of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG are reminded that they are required to follow the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG formulary and prescribing guidance as detailed in their contract.

Cambridgeshire LMC advises all GPs to prescribe responsibly, and to encourage people to buy things over the counter when appropriate, but where a patient with a health need (as defined by you with your knowledge of the patient, their condition, and the item in question) requests an FP10 a GP is obliged to offer such a prescription.

References