



## Topical corticosteroid potencies

February 2026

New labelling on tubes and packaging aligns with the WHO ATC codes.<sup>1</sup> The BNF previously listed topical steroids by proprietary name and classified a small number of products differently from ATC codes. The BNF now lists products only by parent compound<sup>2</sup> and has made some changes (shown in column 4) to align with the ATC codes and new labelling which they explained in a news item in March 2025.<sup>3</sup>

| WHO ATC class                | Parent compound                   | Proprietary products including some generics*                | Previous BNF class, if different |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Mild                         | Hydrocortisone acetate            | Hydrocortisone 0.1-2.5%                                      |                                  |
|                              |                                   | Dioderm                                                      |                                  |
|                              |                                   | Mildison                                                     |                                  |
| Mild with antimicrobials     | Hydrocortisone acetate            | Canesten HC                                                  |                                  |
|                              |                                   | Daktacort                                                    |                                  |
|                              |                                   | Econacort                                                    |                                  |
|                              |                                   | Fucidin H                                                    |                                  |
|                              |                                   | Hydrocortisone with chlorhexidine hydrochloride and nystatin |                                  |
|                              |                                   | Terra-Cortril                                                |                                  |
|                              |                                   | Timodine                                                     |                                  |
| Moderate                     | <u>Alclometasone dipropionate</u> | Alclometasone dipropionate 0.05%                             |                                  |
|                              | Clobetasone butyrate              | Eumovate                                                     |                                  |
|                              | Hydrocortisone butyrate           | Locoid**                                                     | Potent                           |
|                              |                                   | Locoid Crelo, Locoid Lipocream                               | Potent                           |
| Moderate with antimicrobials | Clobetasone butyrate              | Trimovate                                                    |                                  |
| Potent                       | Beclometasone dipropionate        | Beclometasone dipropionate 0.025%                            |                                  |
|                              | Betamethasone dipropionate        | Diprosone                                                    |                                  |
|                              | Betamethasone valerate            | Betamethasone valerate 0.1%                                  |                                  |
|                              |                                   | Betacap                                                      |                                  |
|                              |                                   | Betesil                                                      |                                  |
|                              |                                   | Bettamousse                                                  |                                  |
|                              |                                   | Betnovate                                                    |                                  |
|                              |                                   | Betnovate RD                                                 | Moderate                         |
|                              | Fludroxycortide                   | Haelan**                                                     | Moderate                         |
|                              | Fluocinolone acetonide            | Synalar                                                      |                                  |
|                              |                                   | Synalar 1 in 4                                               | Moderate                         |
|                              | Fluocinonide                      | Metosyn                                                      |                                  |
|                              | Fluticasone                       | Fluticasone propionate 0.25%                                 |                                  |

|                                        |                            |                                       |  |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
|                                        | Mometasone furoate         | Mometasone furoate 0.1%               |  |
|                                        |                            | Elocon                                |  |
|                                        |                            | Ovixan                                |  |
| <b>Potent with antimicrobials</b>      | Betamethasone valerate     | Betamethasone and clioquinol          |  |
|                                        |                            | Betamethasone and neomycin            |  |
|                                        |                            | Fucibet                               |  |
|                                        | Betamethasone dipropionate | Lotriderm                             |  |
|                                        | Fluocinolone acetonide     | Synalar C**                           |  |
|                                        |                            | Synalar N**                           |  |
| <b>Potent with salicylic acid</b>      | Betamethasone dipropionate | Diprosalic                            |  |
| <b>Very potent</b>                     | Clobetasol propionate      | Clarelux                              |  |
|                                        |                            | Dermovate                             |  |
|                                        |                            | Etrivex                               |  |
| <b>Very potent with antimicrobials</b> | Clobetasol propionate      | Clobetasol with neomycin and nystatin |  |

\*Different formulations, e.g. cream/ointment/lotion/shampoo, are not specified here, but in general, same proprietary name = same potency

\*\*Proprietary version of the product may have been discontinued

## References

1. [https://atcddd.fhi.no/atc\\_ddd\\_index/?code=D07&showdescription=no](https://atcddd.fhi.no/atc_ddd_index/?code=D07&showdescription=no)
2. <https://bnf.nice.org.uk/treatment-summaries/topical-corticosteroids/#topical-corticosteroid-potencies>
3. <https://www.pharmaceuticalpress.com/bnf-news/updates-to-potency-labelling-for-topical-corticosteroids/>

## Additional reading

1. Celia Moss, Michael Arden-Jones, *Br J Dermatol* 2025, **192**: 926–927

## Discontinued products:

- Audavate (betamethasone valerate)
- Aureocort (triamcinolone acetonide)
- Cutivate (fluticasone)
- Modrasone (alclometasone dipropionate)
- Nerisone/Nerisone Forte (diflucortolone)
- Ultralanum (flucortolone)

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