

Procedure for the administration of topical applications

Essential equipment

- Clean non-sterile gloves
- Sterile topical swabs
- Applicators

Preprocedure

Action	Rationale
1 Explain and discuss the procedure with the patient.	To ensure that the patient understands the procedure and gives their valid consent (Griffith and Jordan 2003 , NMC 2008b , NMC 2008c).
2 Check the patient's prescription chart and the patient's identity.	To ensure that the patient is given the correct drug and dose (NMC 2008a).

Procedure

3 Assist the patient into the required position.	To allow access to the affected area of skin.
4 Close room door or curtains if appropriate.	To ensure patient privacy and dignity.
5 Assess the condition of the skin and use aseptic technique if the skin is broken.	To prevent local or systemic infection (DH 2007 , Fraise and Bradley 2009).
6 Wash hands in accordance with ANTT principles	To minimise the risk of cross infection.
7 If the medication is to be rubbed into the skin, the preparation should be placed on a sterile topical swab.	To minimize the risk of cross-infection. To protect the nurse (DH 2007 , Fraise and Bradley 2009).
8 If the preparation causes staining, advise the patient of this.	To ensure that adequate precautions are taken beforehand such as removal of clothing and to prevent stains (NMC 2008b).
9 Use a sterile dressing if required.	To ensure the ointment remains in place (Chernecky et al. 2002).
10 Wash hands following procedure	To minimise the risk of cross infection.

Postprocedure

10 Record the administration on appropriate charts.	To maintain accurate records, provide a point of reference in the event of any queries and prevent any duplication of treatment (NMC 2008a , NMC 2009)
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<http://www.rmmonline.co.uk/home.html>; accessed 8/10/13