

Impetigo Workshop

THE COMMON SYMPTOMS

Non-bullous impetigo

- Usually occurs around the nose and mouth
- Appears as red sores which burst leaving behind golden crusts typically 2cm across.
- Sores are not usually painful but can be itchy

Bullous impetigo

- Begins with appearance of fluid filled blisters which usually occur on the central part of body between waist and neck.
- Blisters are usually 1-2 cm across
- Once burst they leave a yellow crust
- Blister may be painful and the area of skin may be itchy

WHAT THE PGD STATES

- Minor skin infection limited to a few lesions in one area of body.
- The rash consists of vesicles that weep and then dry to form yellow-brown crusts.

WHAT ELSE COULD IT BE?

- Chicken pox
- Allergic reaction
- Cold sores

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Age
- Exact symptoms, how long, severity?
- Have they had this before and when? Recent treatment?
- Medication(s) being taken
- Problems with ANY medication
- Are they generally well otherwise

*See PGD for all exclusion criteria

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO IF IMPETIGO IS CONFIRMED BY PRESENTATION OF SYMPTOMS

- Ask if okay to use Fusidic Acid cream
- Remind them to read the leaflet
- Dose reminder
- Advice regarding good hygiene measure to prevent spread.
- Complete record form for supply
- Send copy of notification of supply form to GP
- Write CPUS for supply

Case Studies

A lady brings her 4 year old son into the pharmacy. She asks if the pharmacist can recommend something for the cold sore he has under his nose. She didn't realise children could suffer from cold sores and she asks where would he have picked it up. He attends a local nursery 2 days per week. On closer exam the area has a yellow crust.

A mother brings her two children in the pharmacy looking for another supply of cream her 9 year old son had for Impetigo. She had taken him to the doctor last week as he had red sores on his face which the doctor diagnosed as Impetigo. Her 4 year old daughter has now started to show similar symptoms of Impetigo and has red sores which she is finding very itchy. The mother thinks there was a mix up with bathroom towels which has been the cause of her daughter catching the Impetigo. The mother is hoping she can get another supply of cream as she can't get a doctor's appointment until next week.

A 45 year old man presents in the pharmacy and asks if he can a dressing to cover a few blisters which he has developed on his back. One blister has already burst and he is looking for something to protect the others until they heal as they are very painful. He is on no other medication.