

Impetigo



A contagious bacterial infection of the skin. Common in infants and young children, usually presenting around the nose and mouth. It can occur where there are pre-existing skin conditions such as eczema. There are two types of impetigo.

1) Non-bullous

- Most common type.
- Red sores which burst easily to leave thick yellow-brown crusts.

2) Bullous

- Fluid-filled blisters between 1-2cm across which burst after several days.

Red flag symptoms

- Widespread infection
- Systemically unwell
- Confusion
- Raised heart rate
- Raised respiratory rate/ breathlessness

Self-care advice

- Maintain good hygiene such as hand washing after contact with lesions.
- As it is infectious stay away from school or work until it stops being contagious (either when patches dry out and crust over if no treatment is provided or 48 hours after starting treatment)
- Do not share flannels or towels
- Keep fingernails short
- Do not scratch the skin

Onward referrals

- Scalded skin syndrome, where eczema has been infected with impetigo, skin becomes red and peels away as if it was scalded.
- Reoccurring impetigo

Signposting

- Pharmacy First England - Antibiotics/ hydrogen peroxide cream/ fusidic acid cream
- Pharmacy First Scotland – Antibiotics/ hydrogen peroxide cream/fusidic acid cream

The information provided is correct at the time of publication, any information provided should be under the supervision of the Responsible Pharmacist. We hold no responsibility for any decisions made using this information.

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Non-bullous impetigo



Bullous impetigo



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