Topical Acne Medications

These medications help to clear up acne. They are applied directly to the acne areas.

- Clindamycin
- Benzaclin®
- Benzamycin
- Cleocin-T®
- Erymax®
- Benzoyl Peroxide

Your health care provider wants you to apply ______________________________ (name of medication) _____________ times each day.

How to Use:

1. Wash your hands.
2. Wash area(s) affected by acne with warm soap and water. Rinse well and pat dry.
3. Use a small amount of medication on the areas with acne. Rub the medication in completely with your finger or applicator (on bottle).
4. Be careful not to get the medication in your eyes.
5. Wash your hands again.
6. If your health care provider has ordered more than one medication, follow the special instructions.

Special Instructions:

- Use all of the topical medication even if the acne begins to clear up. It usually takes several weeks for the acne to improve.
- Avoid washing acne areas too often. It may dry the skin and make your acne worse. Washing 1-2 times each day with a mild soap is fine.
- If you miss a dose, apply it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and continue the usual schedule.
- Do not use the medication more often than ordered. Use it only as directed.
- Use “oil-free” noncomedogenic skin care products, including moisturizers, sunscreens and make-up. Avoid using grease/oil on hair and scalp.
- If the medication gets into your eye(s) – wash eye(s) with cool water for several minutes.
- If the medication causes excessive dryness, you may use an “oil-free” or “noncomedogenic” moisturizer as needed.
- Store the medication as instructed.
Side Effects:
Most people do not have side effects from these medications, but if any of the following occur, call your health care provider:

- Pain to the area where medication is applied
- Burning sensation to skin
- Severe scaliness or peeling of skin

Special Considerations:

- Let your health care provider and pharmacist know if you are taking any other medication or are allergic to any medications.
- Tell your health care provider if you are taking any vitamins, herbal products, or nutritional supplements.
- Tell your health care provider about any medical condition(s) you have.
- Keep the medication in its original container and away from sunlight, heat, and dampness.
- Keep the medication out of the reach of children.
- Use only the amount of the medication prescribed by your health care provider.
- Call your health care provider or pharmacist before taking any over-the-counter medications.
- Benzoyl peroxide products can cause bleaching of clothing or bedding.

Call your health care provider or the Children’s Mercy Hospital Information Line at (816) 234-3188 if:

- An itchy rash develops.
- You get this medication in your eye(s) and the pain and burning continues after washing your eyes with cool water.
- Your acne gets worse.
- Dryness of skin gets worse.
- You have questions or concerns regarding this medication or your acne.

Call the Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222 if:

- Too much medication is taken.
- Medication is taken accidentally.