

# Flammacerium<sup>®</sup> cream use in Adults

Patient Information leaflet for  
Queen Victoria NHS Foundation Trust Patients



Flammacerium® is an antibacterial cream used in the management of some burns. It contains silver sulfadiazine and cerium nitrate.

It can help reduce risk of infection, promote healing and, in some cases, although healing may take a little longer, its use may avert surgery and possibly avoid scarring.

Flammacerium® will have been recommended by your burns team. It may be used on patients in hospital or in the community.

## How to use Flammacerium® Cream?

- Flammacerium® is used for treatment of deep dermal or full thickness burns.
- It is applied directly to your burn wound or onto a sterile non-stick dressing every 24-72 hours, as part of your specialist wound care treatment.
- You must apply the cream as directed, usually at intervals of 72 hours or less, to a depth of about 2-3 mm.
- Flammacerium® should be re-applied after thorough removal of the old cream residue.
- If you change your own dressings you may do this yourself.

## Will I be able to have a bath or shower?

If you are able to change your dressing at home, you may be able to shower but please discuss with your nurse or burns team who will be able to advise you. You will not be able to have a bath.

## Can I change my dressing at home?

Your nurse or burns team will advise you if you are able to change your dressing at home and give you any further instructions you may need.

## How long will I have to use this for?

The length of time you will need to use the Flammacerium® for varies depending on your individual circumstances and the severity and size of your burn. In general, for outpatients it would be for 1-2 weeks and then you will be reviewed by your team. If your wound shows signs of infection or appears to not be healing within this period, your team will review its use.

## Cautions

You should not use this cream if you are sensitive to or allergic to any of its ingredients or are sensitive to a group of antibiotics known as sulfonamides.

You should not use this if you are pregnant or breastfeeding. Some patients who have kidney, liver or blood disorders or have glucose-6- phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency (G6PD) may also not be able to use Flammacerium®.

Prolonged use or treatment of extensive areas can result in absorption into your system.

- If you have had or are about to have an oral live attenuated typhoid vaccine you must not use Flammacerium® for 3 days before or after this vaccination.
- You are not advised to use of Flammacerium® on the face, hands and genital area unless your burns doctor has advised this use.
- If you get Flammacerium® in your eyes you must carefully wash them with water.
- Does it hurt? It is generally soothing, although in some cases some pain may occur on application. You can treat this with mild pain killers but if it persists the Flammacerium® should be removed and your doctor/burns team will consider alternative

dressings.

- If you have a severe skin reaction, consult with your doctor/ burns team.
- Very rarely people may experience changes in their blood cell counts.
- Sunlight may turn Flammacerium® on the skin grey so we recommend you do not sunbathe whilst using Flammacerium®. You must protect those areas which have been treated with Flammacerium® from intense sunlight.

## Overdose

- Overdose symptoms are related to levels of sulfadiazine and silver in the body.
- **Side effects** might include nerve, kidney, liver, breathing, stomach and blood cell problems.
- **Treatment** is usually by stopping the cream and management of any overdose symptoms. If necessary, you may need your kidney function and blood cell counts checked.

## How to store Flammacerium® Cream

Keep out of the reach and sight of children.

Do not put any of the cream in any other container

Keep the lid on the pot

Store the cream below 30°C in a cool, dark place. Do not freeze.

Protect from sunlight.

Do not let anyone else use your pot of Flammacerium®.

After opening your pot of Flammacerium® cream you must discard it

when advised to. Ask your pharmacist for advice as you must not put medicines in household waste.

If your pot of Flammacerium® cream is unopened do not use after the expiry date on the pot.

## Unlicensed medicine

Although Flammacerium® is licensed in some European countries, it is not licensed in the UK. Medicines are granted a licence when they have been through many checks to ensure their safety and efficacy. However, in some cases, conditions may not have been studied but doctors and pharmacists can apply their specialist knowledge and experience to recommend the use of an unlicensed medicine in certain situations.

You should not require another pot of Flammacerium® but please note your GP will not prescribe this as it is an unlicensed medicine. If you think you need more you need to contact your doctor/burns team to discuss this.

## Questions or concerns

Please read any information you have been given by your nurse or burns team and the leaflet provided by the manufacturer which is peeled off from behind the large label on the pot of Flammacerium®.

If you have any questions or concerns about the Flammacerium® please contact the department who initiated the Flammacerium®.

The Burns unit at Queen Victoria on 01342 414440

EBAC (Burns outpatient dept.) on 01342 414010 (8:30-17:00)

OR you can contact

Pharmacy medicines information helpline on 01342 414214

## References

*<http://www.lsebn.nhs.uk/website/X13911/files/Flammacerium%20Cream%20in%20Burn%20Wound%20Care%20booklet.pdf>*



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