

POTASSIUM PERMANGANATE APPLICATION ACTION CARD	
GUIDELINES FOR THE PRESCRIBING AND APPLICATION OF POTASSIUM PERMANGANATE SOAKS	PP1
FOR USE BY: Doctors, Independent Prescribers and qualified nurses	LIAISES WITH: other staff in area
Rationale: To ensure the safety of patients and staff. Contact with the Permitabs® tablets can cause burning of the skin and ingestion can cause death, therefore nursing staff should follow the instructions for dilution, application and disposal carefully. Prescription: 1:10,000 which equates to 1 Permitab® tablet dissolved in 4 litres water (BNF, 2011). Prescriber or Dermatology Consultant to review treatment at day 5 if treatment has not worked adequately in meantime. Dilution 1. The nurse preparing the solution should wear gloves and an apron at all times as the solution causes burning and staining to skin, clothing and equipment. 2. One Permitab® should be placed in an empty sterile specimen pot, which then can be filled with 20mls of hand hot water and the lid replaced securely. 3. The pot should be shaken repeatedly until the tablet has dissolved, this can take around 10 minutes. 4. A bucket or bowl should be lined with a plastic waste bag as potassium permanganate causes staining of containers (do not use large yellow sharps containers). 5. The contents of the specimen pot should be poured into the lined bowl or bucket which is filled with 3 litres of warm water. If there is any portion of the tablet left un-dissolved, more water should be added to the tablet in the specimen pot and this should be repeatedly shaken until fully dissolved and then added to the rest of the solution. 6. The solution should then be made up to a final volume of 4 litres. Application Method 1: for use with lower legs or hands only 1. Solution should be prepared in a lined bowl (see dilution section above). 2. Smear Vaseline / soft yellow paraffin on all nails that will be in contact with the solution or paint nails with nail varnish. 3. The patient should place the affected limb(s) in bowl (one bowl for each limb) (do not use large yellow sharps containers). 4. If the solution does not reach above the area to be treated the patient / nurse should irrigate the area with the solution (gloves must be worn). 5. The area should be immersed for 10-15 minutes. Clean water should be used to remove the solution from the skin. An emollient can be used as a soap substitute if required. 6. The skin should be checked for irritant reactions immediately after treatment and the days following. 7. Review daily and stop treatment when skin becomes dry or a maximum of 5 days, when a medical review is required). ALWAYS ENSURE ALL RELEVANT ACTIONS ARE DOCUMENTED!	

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Method 2: any affected area 1. The solution should be prepared in a lined bowl (<i>see dilution section above</i>). 2. The patient should lie on a couch / bed which is covered with waterproof sheeting. 3. Smear Vaseline / soft yellow paraffin on all nails that will be in contact with the solution or paint nails with nail varnish. 4. Soak gauze swabs in the potassium permanganate solution, gently wring out and apply to all areas requiring treatment, adding further solution to the swabs if necessary. 5. Leave in place for 10-15 minutes (15 maximum –although some oxidation takes place earlier with this method) 6. Remove the gauze swabs from the skin and then clean water should be used to remove the solution from the skin. An emollient can be used as a soap substitute if required. 7. The skin should be checked for irritant reactions immediately after treatment and the days following. 8. Review daily and stop treatment when the skin becomes dry or a maximum of 5 days, when a medical review is required). Permitab® should be stored in a flammable chemical storage cabinet in the relevant clinical area. ALWAYS ENSURE ALL RELEVANT ACTIONS ARE DOCUMENTED!	