This information was up to date at the time of release to the Heads of Midwifery.
The editorial board does not accept liability for any errors or omissions following its subsequent publication.
Updating arrangements for the formulary should be decided upon and implemented at a local level.

Ametop gel ®	
Legal status (GSL, P or POM on exemption list, or PGD)	▪ P - midwife may supply and apply
Patient group	Women requiring local anaesthesia prior to venepuncture or venous cannulation.
Clinical indication	Percutaneous local anaesthetic to produce anaesthesia of the skin prior to venepuncture or venous cannulation.
Pharmacology (Onset and duration of action where appropriate)	It acts as a local anaesthetic by inhibiting the ionic refluxes required for the initiation and conduction of impulses, thereby stabilising the neuronal membrane and preventing pain signals being sent to the brain. Onset of action is 30-45 minutes depending on depth tissue to be anaesthetised. The effect can last for 4-6 hours. It is also has a pharmacological action on capillary vessels causing dilation, which commonly results in a local erythema.
Pharmaceutical form, strength, route of administration	Topical white opalescent gel with each gram containing: 40mg of tetracaine base /1g in 1.5g tube. For topical application.
Dose, frequency and maximum number of doses or period of time for administration or supply	Apply the contents of tube (approximately 1g) dividing it between the two sites to be anesthetised 30 minutes prior to venepucture or 45 minutes prior to venous cannulation. Cover the area with an occlusive dressing marked with time of application. Ensure that skin is healthy and intact. Up to 5 sites can be anaesthetised at one time. May be repeated after 5 hours. Maximum of 7 tubes in 24 hours.
Contra-indications/exclusion criteria	▪ known hypersensitivity to any component of the medicine or local anaesthetic of an ester type ▪ do not apply to broken skin, mucous membranes or to the eyes or ears

Ametop gel ®	
Cautions and action that will be taken if a caution applies	▪ women with epilepsy ▪ avoid contact with your skin when applying as there have been reports of sensitisation reactions in healthcare professionals on repeated exposure ▪ check and document any allergies ▪ check and document past medical and drug history and current medication to ascertain potential for overdose ▪ if a caution applies consultation with a doctor is required before administration or supply ▪ record consultation in maternity record
Drug interactions and action that will be taken if a patient is taking a medicine that may interact	▪ none known ▪ if there is a drug interaction consult with a doctor/GP before administration or supply ▪ record consultation in maternity record ▪ refer to current BNF for latest information on interactions
Potential adverse reactions and side effects including actions to be taken if adverse drug reaction is suspected	*At the site of application:* *frequent: slight erythema* *rarely: more severe erythema, oedema and/or itching confined to the site of application* *very rare: blistering of the skin at the site of application may be apparent – in these cases, remove the gel immediately and treat the affected area symptomatically* ▪ *on labour* — *Nil* ▪ *on the neonate* — *Nil for this indication* ▪ *on breast feeding* — *Nil for this indication* ▪ *If a serious adverse reaction is suspected please report to the MHRA Yellow Card Scheme. http://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/*
Overdose	▪ unlikely from application to intact skin ▪ accidental ingestion may result in signs of inebriation, tingling, numbness of the tongue, tinnitus, nystagmus, nausea or vomiting, twitching and ultimately convulsions ▪ immediate assessment/ treatment is essential - refer to medical staff ▪ manage in accordance with established treatment guidelines or see BNF overdose section ▪ for further advice contact National Poisons Centre 0344 892 0111
Action if patient declines	▪ refer to authorised prescriber or doctor ▪ document in maternity record
Additional advice and information	▪ supply the manufacturer's patient information leaflet if requested

Ametop gel ®	
Patient monitoring arrangements during and after treatment and follow-up required	Remove dressing and gel after 30-45 minutes and mark out the application site if the procedure is to be delayed. The gel must not be in contact with the skin for more than 1 hour. In case of severe local reaction, remove gel immediately, inform doctor and treat affected area symptomatically.
Particular storage requirements	Store in refrigerator 2-8^{0}C but may be stored at 25^{0}C for up to one month.

References

1. Summary of Product Characteristics Ametop® text revision 12.3.2018. Accessed 30.12.2019 http://www.medicines.org.uk
2. http://www.bnf.org