

Pharmacist Information



Each time you make up a prescription which contains a paraffin-based skin product (at any % level of paraffin content)

1. Place one sticker on the pharmacy bag. This is a reminder to your staff team to have a conversation with the person who collects the prescription.
2. Place one warning postcard in the pharmacy bag. Encourage the customer to place the card in their medicine cabinet (or wherever they store the products in between use) as a reminder of the potential fire risks.

NB: The warning postcards may also be given to customers buying these products without prescription along with an accompanying conversation.

When the resources are finished the project will end. This is a pilot project across West Yorkshire and these resources have been provided by West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service. We would like to contact you for feedback about the project and resources at a later date. If the feedback response from pharmacists is positive we will consider options for the future sustainability of the project and its possible roll out across the UK.

Tips for your conversation with the customer

- These products are safe to use and should be continued to be used to ease or resolve their condition.
- The products are not flammable – if you put a lighted match directly to the product it would not catch fire.
- BUT when the product is used regularly it can contaminate clothing, bedding or bandages by leaving residue on the material.
- If an ignition source such as a lighted match, dropped cigarette, gas or electric hob, candle, open flame fire or halogen heater is introduced the material will ignite and will burn hotter and faster than usual. 3 people have died in West Yorkshire since 2015.
- Washing the clothing etc does not necessarily remove the flammable residue.
- So, advise the customer – if there is any risk of their clothing being contaminated with paraffin-based skin products
 - NOT to smoke.
 - NOT to cook.
 - NOT to go near or sit too close to an open flame fire, gas, electric or halogen heater.
 - To be careful when using candles
- Finally, ask them to place the postcard in a place where they will see it each time they use the product.

When the project is finished, we hope you will continue to have conversations about the potential fire risks with your customers. If you have any queries about the project please call 01274 682311 and ask for your local District Prevention Team. Alternatively, visit our website at www.westyorkfire.gov.uk