GALPHARM COLD SORE 5% W/W CREAM
GALPHARM ACICLOVIR 5% W/W CREAM

PL 16028/0135-6

UKPAR

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Lay Summary	Page 2
Scientific discussion	Page 3
Steps taken for assessment	Page 11
Summary of Product Characteristics	Page 12
Product Information Leaflet	
Labelling	

GALPHARM COLD SORE 5% W/W CREAM
GALPHARM ACICLOVIR 5% W/W CREAM

PL 16028/0135-6

LAY SUMMARY

The MHRA granted Galpharm Healthcare Limited Marketing Authorisations (licences) for the medicinal products Galpharm Cold Sore 5% w/w Cream and Galpharm Aciclovir 5% w/w Cream on 30 June 2010. These products, to be available on general sale licence (GSL), are to be used for the treatment of cold sores (herpes simplex virus infections). It works by slowing the growth of the virus and speeds up the healing of the cold sore blisters.

The active ingredient aciclovir belongs to a group of medicines called antivirals.

These applications are duplicates of a previously granted application for Pinewood Cold Sore Cream (PL 04917/0066), which was granted to the Marketing Authorisation Holder Pinewood Laboratories Limited on 22 December 2004.

No new or unexpected safety concerns arose from these simple applications and it was, therefore, judged that the benefits of taking Galpharm Cold Sore 5% w/w Cream and Galpharm Aciclovir 5 % w/w Cream outweigh the risks; hence marketing authorisations have been granted.

GALPHARM COLD SORE 5% W/W CREAM
GALPHARM ACICLOVIR 5% W/W CREAM

PL 16028/0135-6

SCIENTIFIC DISCUSSION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	Page 4
Pharmaceutical assessment	Page 5
Preclinical assessment	Page 8
Clinical assessment (including statistical assessment)	Page 9
Overall conclusions and risk benefit assessment	Page 10

INTRODUCTION

Based on the review of the data on quality, safety and efficacy, the MHRA granted marketing authorisations for the medicinal products Galpharm Cold Sore 5% w/w Cream and Galpharm Aciclovir 5 % w/w Cream (PL 16028/0135-6) to Galpharm Healthcare Limited on 30 June 2010. These are general sale licences (GSL) used for the treatment of Herpes Simplex virus infections of the lips and face (herpes labialis).

The products contain the active ingredient aciclovir, which belongs to a group of medicines called antivirals.

The applications were submitted as simple abridged applications according to Article 10c (formerly Article 10.1(a)(i)) of Directive 2001/83/EC, cross-referring to Pinewood Cold Sore Cream (PL 04917/0066), approved on 22 December 2004 to the Marketing Authorisation Holder Pinewood Laboratories Limited.

No new data were submitted nor were they necessary for these simple applications, as the data are identical to that of the previously granted cross-reference product.

PHARMACEUTICAL ASSESSMENT

LICENCE NO: PL 16028/0135-6
PROPRIETARY NAME: Galpharm Cold Sore 5% w/w Cream
Galpharm Aciclovir 5% w/w Cream
COMPANY NAME: Galpharm Healthcare Limited
E.C. ARTICLE: Article 10(c) of Directive 2001/83/EC
LEGAL STATUS: GSL

1 INTRODUCTION

These are simple, informed consent applications for Galpharm Cold Sore 5% w/w Cream and Galpharm Aciclovir 5% w/w Cream, submitted under Article 10(c) of Directive 2001/83/EC. The applications cross-refer to Pinewood Cold Sore Cream (PL 04917/0066), approved on 22 December 2004 to Pinewood Laboratories Limited.

The current applications are considered valid.

2 MARKETING AUTHORISATION APPLICATION (MAA)

2.1 Name(s)

The proposed names of the products are Galpharm Cold Sore 5% w/w Cream and Galpharm Aciclovir 5% w/w Cream. The products have been named in line with current requirements.

2.2 Strength, pharmaceutical form, route of administration, container and pack sizes

The products contain the active ingredient 5% w/w aciclovir.
The cream is packed in aluminium tubes with polyethylene screw caps containing 2g.

The proposed shelf life is 3 years (unopened), which reduces to 6 weeks once opened. The storage conditions are 'Do not store above 25^{o}C. Do not refrigerate'. The shelf-life and storage conditions are identical to those for the reference product and are satisfactory.

2.3 Legal status

These products are available on a general sales licence (GSL).

2.4 Marketing authorisation holder/Contact Persons/Company

The proposed Marketing Authorisation Holder is Galpharm Healthcare Limited, Hugh House, Dodworth Business Park, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S75 3SP, UK.

The Qualified Person (QP) responsible for pharmacovigilance is stated and their CV is included.

2.5 Manufacturers

The proposed manufacturing site is consistent with that registered for the reference product and evidence of compliance with current Good Manufacturing Practice has been provided.

2.6 Qualitative and quantitative composition

The proposed compositions are consistent with the details registered for the reference product.

2.7 Manufacturing process

The proposed manufacturing process is consistent with the details registered for the reference product and the maximum batch size is stated.

2.8 Finished product/shelf-life specification
The proposed finished product specifications are in line with the details registered for the reference product.

2.9 Drug substance specification
The proposed drug substance specifications are consistent with the details registered for the cross-reference product.

A European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines (EDQM) certificate of suitability for the drug substance manufacturer has been provided to support the manufacturing and control of active substance. These details are in line with those of the reference product.

2.10 TSE Compliance
No materials of human or animal origin have been used in the manufacture of these products. This is consistent with the reference product.

2.11 Bioequivalence
No bioequivalence data are required to support these informed consent applications, as the proposed products are manufactured to the same formula utilising the same process as the reference product Pinewood Cold Sore Cream (PL 04917/0066).

3 EXPERT REPORT
The applicant has included detailed pharmaceutical expert report, written by an appropriately qualified person.

4. PRODUCT NAME & APPEARANCE
See 2.1 for details of the proposed product name. The appearance of the products is identical to that of the reference product.

5. SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS (SmPC)
The proposed SmPCs are consistent with the details registered for the reference product.

6. PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET (PIL)/LABELLING
PIL

The patient information leaflet has been prepared in line with the details registered for the reference product.

The applicant has previously submitted results of PIL user testing for the reference product Pinewood Cold Sore Cream (PL 04917/0066). The results indicate that the PIL is well-structured and organised, easy to understand and written in a comprehensive manner. The test shows that the patients/users are able to act upon the information that it contains. As the leaflet for Pinewood Cold Sore Cream (PL 04917/0066) and these products are considered the same, no further user testing of the leaflets for these products is necessary.

Carton and tube

The proposed artwork complies with the relevant statutory requirements. In line with current legislation, the applicant has also included the name of the product in Braille on the outer packaging.

7. CONCLUSIONS

The data submitted with these applications are acceptable. The grant of marketing authorisations is recommended.

PRECLINICAL ASSESSMENT

As these applications are identical to the reference product Pinewood Cold Sore Cream (PL 04917/0066), no new preclinical data have been supplied with these applications and none are required. A preclinical expert report has been written by a suitably qualified person and is satisfactory.

The marketing authorisation holder has provided adequate justification for not submitting an Environment Risk Assessment (ERA). As the applications are for an identical version of an already authorised reference product, it is not expected that the environmental exposure to aciclovir will increase following the marketing approval of the proposed product.

.

CLINICAL ASSESSMENT

As these applications are identical to the reference product Pinewood Cold Sore Cream (PL 04917/0066), no new clinical data have been supplied with these applications and none are required. A clinical expert report has been written by a suitably qualified person and is satisfactory.

The Marketing Authorisation Holder has provided adequate justification for not submitting a Risk Management Plan (RMP). As the applications are for identical versions of already authorised reference products, for which safety concerns requiring additional risk minimisation have not been identified, a risk minimisation system is not considered necessary. The reference product has been in use for many years and the safety profile of the active ingredient is well-established.

The Marketing Authorisation Holder has provided a suitable pharmacovigilance system that fulfils the requirements and provides adequate evidence that the Marketing Authorisation Holder has the services of a qualified person responsible for pharmacovigilance and has the necessary means for the notification of any adverse reaction suspected of occurring either in the Community or in a third country.

OVERALL CONCLUSION AND BENEFIT/RISK ASSESSMENT

QUALITY
The data for these applications are consistent with that previously assessed for the reference product and as such have been judged to be satisfactory.

PRECLINICAL
No new preclinical data were submitted and none are required for applications of this type.

EFFICACY
These applications are identical to the previously granted application for Pinewood Cold Sore Cream (PL 04917/0066), granted to Pinewood Laboratories Limited on 22 December 2004.

No new or unexpected safety concerns arise from these applications.

PRODUCT LITERATURE
The SPC, PIL and labelling are satisfactory and consistent with that for the reference product.

Colour mock-ups of the labelling have been provided and are satisfactory. The approved labelling artwork complies with statutory requirements. The name of the product in Braille appears on the outer packaging.

BENEFIT/RISK ASSESSMENT
The quality of the products is acceptable and no new preclinical or clinical safety concerns have been identified. The applicant's products are identical to the reference product. Extensive clinical experience with aciclovir is considered to have demonstrated the therapeutic values of the compound. The benefit/risk is therefore considered to be positive.

GALPHARM COLD SORE 5% W/W CREAM
GALPHARM ACICLOVIR 5% W/W CREAM

PL 16028/0135-6

STEPS TAKEN FOR ASSESSMENT

1	The MHRA received the marketing authorisation applications on 02 July 2009
2	Following standard checks and communication with the applicant the MHRA considered the applications valid on 21 July 2009
3	Following assessment of the applications the MHRA requested further information on 18 October 2009 and 07 January 2010
4	The applicant responded to the MHRA's request, providing further information on 10 December 2009 and 19 May 2010
5	The applications were determined on 30 June 2010

SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Galpharm Cold Sore 5% w/w Cream
Galpharm Aciclovir 5%w/w Cream

2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Aciclovir 50 mg/g.

Excipients:

Cetyl alcohol	15mg/g
Propylene glycol	150mg/g

For a full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Cream.
White to off-white cream.

4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

For the treatment of Herpes Simplex virus infections of the lips and face (Herpes labialis).

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Adults and children

Treatment should be initiated as soon as possible after the start of the infection, ideally during the prodromal period or when the lesions first appear.

A thin film of cream should be applied to the infected and immediately adjacent skin areas 5 times daily at 4-hour intervals during the day.

Treatment should be continued for 5 days, following by a further 5 days treatment if healing has not occurred.

Patients should wash their hands before and after applying the cream and avoid unnecessary rubbing of the lesions or touching with a towel, to avoid aggravating or transferring the infection.

Elderly

No special requirements

4.3 Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to Aciclovir or any other ingredients of the preparation.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Only recommended for use on cold sores on the lips and face.
People with particularly severe Herpes labialis should be encouraged to seek medical advice.

Not to be applied to mucous membranes such as inside the mouth or vagina, or on the eye. Particular care should be taken to avoid contact with the eye.

Not for use for the treatment of genital herpes or ocular herpes infections.

Not recommended for use by patients who know they are immunocompromised e.g. by HIV infection, bone marrow transplant or cancer treatment, except on the advice of a doctor.

Cold sore sufferers should be advised to avoid transmitting the virus, particularly when active lesions are present.

.

Cetyl alcohol and propylene glycol may cause local skin reactions.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Probnecid increases the mean half-life and area under the plasma concentration curve of systemically administered Aciclovir. Other drugs affecting renal physiology could potentially influence the pharmacokinetics of Aciclovir. However this is likely to be of little relevance to the cutaneous application of Aciclovir.

No interactions with other drugs have been described for topical Acyclovir.

4.6 Pregnancy and lactation

No specific studies of topical Aciclovir have been carried out in pregnant women or nursing mothers.

So far, no relevant plasma levels have been measured and no systemic effects have been observed.

However, use of the cream should be considered only when the potential benefit outweighs the possibility of unknown risks.

In internationally accepted standard tests the systemic administration of Aciclovir did not produce embryotoxic or teratogenic effects in rabbits, rats or mice.

Foetal abnormalities were observed in non-standard tests in rats, but only following such high subcutaneous doses that maternal toxicity was produced. The clinical relevance of these findings is uncertain.

Largely reversible adverse effects on spermatogenesis in association with overall toxicity in rats and dogs have been reported only at doses greatly in excess of those employed therapeutically. Two generation studies in mice did not reveal any effect of orally administered Aciclovir on fertility.

There is no experience of the effect of Aciclovir tablets on human female fertility. Aciclovir tablets have been shown to have no definite effect upon sperm count, morphology or motility in man.

Following oral administration of 200 mg Aciclovir five times a day, Aciclovir has been detected in breast milk at concentrations ranging from 0.6 to 4.1 times the corresponding plasma levels. These levels would potentially expose breast fed infants to Aciclovir doses of up to 0.3 mg/kg/day.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

The medicinal product has no influence on the ability to drive or operate machinery.

4.8 Undesirable effects

The following convention has been used for the classification of undesirable effects in terms of frequency:-

Very common ≥ 1/10, common ≥ 1/100 and <1/10, uncommon ≥ 1/1,000 and <1/100, rare ≥ 1/10,000 and <1/1,000, very rare < 1/10,000

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders
Common
Mild drying or flaking of the skin

Uncommon
Itching

Rare
Erythema

Contact dermatitis following application. Where sensitivity tests have been conducted, the reactive substance have most often been shown to be components of the cream base rather than aciclovir.

Immune system disorders
Very rare
Immediate hypersensitivity reactions including angioedema.

After application of the cream, transient burning or stinging of the treated skin areas may occur.

4.9 Overdose

Overdose is unlikely to occur, if the cream is applied locally and as indicated. There are no reports concerning an overdose of Aciclovir cream.

No unwanted effects would be expected if the entire contents of a 2.0g tube of the cream were ingested. Doses of 800 mg five times daily (4 g per day), have administered without adverse effects. Single intravenous doses of up to 80 mg/kg have been inadvertently administered without adverse effects. Aciclovir is dialysable.

5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

ATC code: D06 BB03

Aciclovir is a pharmacologically inactive substance. After penetration into cells which are infected with herpes simplex virus types I and II (HSV I & HSV II) or varicella-zoster virus (VSV), Aciclovir is converted into a virostatic agent. The conversion of Aciclovir is catalysed by viral HSV- or VZV- thymidine kinase. Human thymidine kinase does not use Aciclovir effectively as a substrate, hence the toxicity to mammalian host cells is low.

In the infected cell, Aciclovir is phosphorylated by viral thymidine kinase to Aciclovir monophosphate, which is further converted by cellular enzymes to Aciclovir triphosphate. Aciclovir triphosphate has a greater affinity for viral DNA polymerase than host cell DNA polymerase and therefore selectively interferes with the viral enzyme causing inhibition of viral DNA replication. Aciclovir is also incorporated into viral DNA by viral DNA polymerase, which results in chain termination, as Aciclovir lacks a 3'-hydroxyl group, preventing addition of nucleotides by 3',5'-linkage.

In severely immunocompromised patients a longer or repeated treatment with Aciclovir can lead to a selection of viral strains with reduced sensitivity. As a result, these patients no longer respond to treatment with Aciclovir. Most of the clinical isolates with reduced sensitivity showed a relative lack of virus thymidine kinase. However, strains with changed/different virus thymidine kinase or DNS polymerase were also reported. The in vitro exposition of HSV-isolates can also lead to the development of less sensitive strains. The connection between the in vitro determined sensitivity of HSV-isolates and the clinical response to the treatment with Aciclovir is not clear.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Absorption and plasma concentrations

Aciclovir penetrates into the skin. The intracutaneous concentration levels are higher than the minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) in tissue at steady state.

After topical application of Aciclovir, no Aciclovir plasma concentration could be determined.

As the Aciclovir plasma concentrations following topical application are below the limit of detection, no pharmacokinetic studies are available on topical Aciclovir. Therefore, the following data is based on the data after oral or intravenous administration.

Plasma protein binding is reported to range between 9 and 33% as a function of dose. The volume of distribution at steady state in adults is 50± 8.7v1.73 m^2, or 0.7 I/kg.

Two metabolites could be identified in the urine of patients with normal renal function after single dosing with ^{14}C-Aciclovir: 9-carboxymethoxymethylguanine (2-14% of an administered dose) and 8-hydroxy-9-(2-hydroxyethoxymethyl)guanine(<0.2% of a dose). Subjects with normal renal function eliminate 62-91% of an Aciclovir dose unchanged and 9-14% as 9-carboxymethoxymethylguanine via the kidneys.

Aciclovir is predominantly eliminated via the kidneys, primarily by glomerular filtration and to a lesser extent by tubular secretion.

In vitro and in vivo studies of Aciclovir cream and Aciclovir ointment versus oral Aciclovir were carried out to determine the bioavailability of Aciclovir in human skin. The in vitro studies used human skin biopsates, whilst the bioassays either used human skin grafts on mice or were carried out in the human eye (3 patients).

The following dermal drug concentration gradient emerged for both topical and oral Aciclovir: stratum corneum> epidermis>dermis. There was no difference in concentration between cream and ointment.

The upper layer of the epidermis on average showed a 48-fold higher concentration following topical application of Aciclovir ointment or cream 5% than after oral dosing, but the drug concentration in the basal epidermis – the site of herpes virus infection – was 2 to 3 times lower following topical application than after oral dosing.

On the basis of continuous absorption the concentration increased as a function of time (higher drug concentrations being found 48 hours post-topical dose than 24 hours post-topical dose). Thus short dosing intervals appear rational for the special treatment of herpes simplex virus (HSV) infections.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

For 24 days, PEG-based Aciclovir Cream 5 or 10% was applied to the shaved (intact and grazed) skin of guinea-pigs. The treated area corresponded to 10% of the body surface. There were neither systemic nor local toxic symptoms. This is also confirmed by histologic studies and autopsy. According to the test carried out by Draize, who evaluated the allergic sensitising potential of a substance, there were no pathogenic findings.

Studies carried out in swine showed that 5% Aciclovir cream in a PEG vehicle caused an only minimal (quantitative) delay in epidermal wound healing.

Rabbits had 1, 3 or 6% Aciclovir cream in a white petrolatum vehicle introduced directly into both eyes 5 times daily at 90-minute intervals for 3 weeks. Neither autopsy nor inspection nor histological examination revealed any pathological changes in the rabbit eyes.

6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Arlatone 983S
Dimeticone
Cetyl alcohol
Liquid paraffin
White soft paraffin
Propylene glycol (E1520)
Purified water

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable

6.3 Shelf life

3 years (unopened)
6 weeks (open)

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Do not store above 25°C. Do not refrigerate.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

Aluminium tube with polyethylene screw cap.

Pack size: 2g

6.6 Special precautions for disposal

No special requirements.
Any unused product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

7 MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Galpharm Healthcare Limited
Hugh House
Dodworth Business Park
Barnsley
South Yorkshire

S75 3SP
United Kingdom

8 MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)

PL 16028/0135
PL 16028/0136

9 DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

30/06/2010

10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

30/06/2010

PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

GALPHARM COLD SORE 5% W/W CREAM
(Aciclovir)

Read all of this leaflet carefully because it contains important information for you.
This medicine is available without prescription. However, you still need to use the product carefully to get the best results from it.
- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you need more information or advice.
- You must contact a doctor if your symptoms worsen or do not improve after 10 days.
- If any of the side effects gets serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

In this leaflet:

1. What Galpharm Cold Sore 5% w/w Cream is and what it is used for
2. Before you use Galpharm Cold Sore 5% w/w Cream
3. How to use Galpharm Cold Sore 5% w/w Cream
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Galpharm Cold Sore 5% w/w Cream
6. Further information

1. WHAT GALPHARM COLD SORE 5% W/W CREAM IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR

Galpharm Cold Sore 5% w/w Cream is a smooth off-white cream for application to the lips and face. It contains aciclovir which belongs to a group of medicines called antivirals.
This cream is used for the treatment of cold sores (Herpes simplex virus infections); it slows the growth of the virus, and speeds the healing of cold sore blisters.

2. BEFORE YOU USE GALPHARM COLD SORE 5% W/W CREAM

Do not use Galpharm Cold Sore 5% w/w Cream if you:
- are allergic to aciclovir or to any of the other ingredients in Galpharm Cold Sore 5% w/w Cream *(see Section 6 and end of Section 2).*

Take special care with Galpharm Cold Sore 5% w/w Cream:
- **do not use** on mucous membranes as the cream can cause irritation. The areas to avoid include the inside of the mouth and nose, the eyes and inside the vagina.
- **do not use** this product to treat mouth ulcers, or for herpes infections which are in or near your eyes, or in the genital area.
- **do not use** this cream if your cold sore is severe; you must see a doctor for advice on how to treat it.
- **only use** Galpharm Cold Sore 5% w/w Cream to treat blisters on your lips and face.

If your immune system is weakened for any reason e.g. HIV infection, a bone marrow transplant or cancer treatment, **do not treat yourself** with Galpharm Cold Sore 5% w/w Cream; you must seek advice from your doctor.

While you have a cold sore, avoid spreading the infection to others by washing your hands carefully before and after applying the cream, and avoid touching the infected skin with anything else, especially with your hands or with towels.

Taking other medicines
Please tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding
Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are or may be pregnant. Ask your doctor for advice before taking any medicine during pregnancy. The active ingredient aciclovir has been found to pass into breast milk.

Important information about some of the ingredients
Galpharm Cold Sore 5% w/w Cream contains:
- **cetyl alcohol** which may cause local skin reactions (e.g. contact dermatitis).
- **propylene glycol** which may cause skin irritation.

3. HOW TO USE GALPHARM COLD SORE 5% W/W CREAM

FOR EXTERNAL USE ONLY

Always use Galpharm Cold Sore 5% w/w Cream exactly as instructed in this leaflet. If you are not sure, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Do not exceed the stated dose.

It is best to apply the product as soon as possible after the start of the infection.

For application to the **surface of the skin** only:
1. Wash your hands thoroughly before use.
2. Apply a thin layer of the cream to the infected area and the skin immediately next to it, 5 times a day at intervals of about 4 hours. Take care not to rub the infected skin any more than you need to.
3. Wash your hands again, to avoid spreading the infection.
4. Use the cream for up to 5 days. If the infection has not healed after this time, you can continue to use it for a further 5 days.

If your cold sore gets worse during the treatment period, or if it has not healed after 10 days of treatment, STOP using the cream and seek advice from your doctor.

If you use more Galpharm Cold Sore 5% w/w Cream than you should or if you or a child accidentally swallow the cream, contact your doctor or nearest hospital immediately. Take the packet with you to help identification.

If you forget to use Galpharm Cold Sore 5% w/w Cream
If you miss a treatment, apply the cream as soon as you remember, and apply the remaining dosee for that day at evenly spaced intervals.

If you have any further questions on the use of this product, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Like all medicines, Galpharm Cold Sore 5% w/w Cream can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

If you notice the following: rash, itchy skin, weal, swelling of the lips, face and/or eyelids, they may be signs of an allergic reaction. Stop using Galpharm Cold Sore 5% w/w Cream and seek medical advice immediately.

Other side effects include:

Common (affects less than 1 in 10 people)
- mild drying or flaking of your skin

Uncommon (affects less than 1 in 100 people)
- a burning or stinging feeling after applying the cream that goes away
- itching

Rare (affects less than 1 in 1,000 people)
- redness of your skin
- skin rash

If any of the side effects become severe, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

5. HOW TO STORE GALPHARM COLD SORE 5% W/W CREAM

Keep out of the reach and sight of children.
Do not store above 25°C. Store in the original package and keep the tube in the outer carton. Do not refrigerate.
Do not use Galpharm Cold Sore 5% w/w Cream after the expiry date which is stated on the tube/carton. Discard 6 weeks after first opening. Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help to protect the environment.

6. FURTHER INFORMATION

What Galpharm Cold Sore 5% w/w Cream contains:
- The **active substance** is aciclovir and the cream contains 50 mg in every 1g (5% w/w).
- The **other ingredients** are Arlatone 983S, dimeticone, cetyl alcohol, liquid paraffin, white soft paraffin, propylene glycol (E1520) and purified water *(see end of Section 2 for further information).*

What Galpharm Cold Sore 5% w/w Cream looks like and contents of the pack
The product is a smooth white to off-white cream and is available in aluminium tubes containing 2g.

Marketing Authorisation Holder
Galpharm Healthcare Ltd., Upper Cliffe Road, Dodworth Business Park, Dodworth, South Yorkshire S75 3SP.

If you need this leaflet in large print or Braille, contact us on 01226 779911.

This leaflet was last updated in April 2010.

PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

GALPHARM ACICLOVIR 5% W/W CREAM

Read all of this leaflet carefully because it contains important information for you.
This medicine is available without prescription. However, you still need to use the product carefully to get the best results from it.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you need more information or advice.
- You must contact a doctor if your symptoms worsen or do not improve after 10 days.
- If any of the side effects gets serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

In this leaflet:

1. What Galpharm Aciclovir 5% w/w Cream is and what it is used for
2. Before you use Galpharm Aciclovir 5% w/w Cream
3. How to use Galpharm Aciclovir 5% w/w Cream
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Galpharm Aciclovir 5% w/w Cream
6. Further information

1. WHAT GALPHARM ACICLOVIR 5% W/W CREAM IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR

Galpharm Aciclovir 5% w/w Cream is a smooth off-white cream for application to the lips and face. It contains aciclovir which belongs to a group of medicines called antivirals.
This cream is used for the treatment of cold sores (Herpes simplex virus infections); it slows the growth of the virus, and speeds the healing of cold sore blisters.

2. BEFORE YOU USE GALPHARM ACICLOVIR 5% W/W CREAM

Do not use Galpharm Aciclovir 5% w/w Cream if you:

- are allergic to aciclovir or to any of the other ingredients in Galpharm Aciclovir 5% w/w Cream *(see Section 6 and end of Section 2).*

Take special care with Galpharm Aciclovir 5% w/w Cream:

- **do not use** on mucous membranes as the cream can cause irritation. The areas to avoid include the inside of the mouth and nose, the eyes and inside the vagina.
- **do not use** this product to treat mouth ulcers, or for herpes infections which are in or near your eyes, or in the genital area.
- **do not use** this cream if your cold sore is severe; you must see a doctor for advice on how to treat it.
- **only use** Galpharm Aciclovir 5% w/w Cream to treat blisters on your lips and face.

If your immune system is weakened for any reason e.g. HIV infection, a bone marrow transplant or cancer treatment, **do not treat yourself** with Galpharm Aciclovir 5% w/w Cream; you must seek advice from your doctor.

While you have a cold sore, avoid spreading the infection to others by washing your hands carefully before and after applying the cream, and avoid touching the infected skin with anything else, especially with your hands or with towels.

Taking other medicines
Please tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding
Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are or may be pregnant. Ask your doctor for advice before taking any medicine during pregnancy. The active ingredient aciclovir has been found to pass into breast milk.

Important information about some of the ingredients
Galpharm Aciclovir 5% w/w Cream contains:

- **cetyl alcohol** which may cause local skin reactions (e.g. contact dermatitis).
- **propylene glycol** which may cause skin irritation.

3. HOW TO USE GALPHARM ACICLOVIR 5% W/W CREAM

FOR EXTERNAL USE ONLY

Always use Galpharm Aciclovir 5% w/w Cream exactly as instructed in this leaflet. If you are not sure, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Do not exceed the stated dose.

It is best to apply the product as soon as possible after the start of the infection.

For application to the **surface of the skin** only:

1. Wash your hands thoroughly before use.
2. Apply a thin layer of the cream to the infected area and the skin immediately next to it, 5 times a day at intervals of about 4 hours. Take care not to rub the infected skin any more than you need to.
3. Wash your hands again, to avoid spreading the infection.
4. Use the cream for up to 5 days. If the infection has not healed after this time, you can continue to use it for a further 5 days.

If your cold sore gets worse during the treatment period, or if it has not healed after 10 days of treatment, STOP using the cream and seek advice from your doctor.

If you use more Galpharm Aciclovir 5% w/w Cream than you should or if you or a child accidentally swallow the cream, contact your doctor or nearest hospital immediately. Take the packet with you to help identification.

If you forget to use Galpharm Aciclovir 5% w/w Cream
If you miss a treatment, apply the cream as soon as you remember, and apply the remaining doses for that day at evenly spaced intervals.

If you have any further questions on the use of this product, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Like all medicines, Galpharm Aciclovir 5% w/w Cream can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

If you notice the following: rash, itchy skin, weal, swelling of the lips, face and/or eyelids, they may be signs of an allergic reaction. Stop using Galpharm Aciclovir 5% w/w Cream and seek medical advice immediately.

Other side effects include:

Common (affects less than 1 in 10 people)
- mild drying or flaking of your skin

Uncommon (affects less than 1 in 100 people)
- a burning or stinging feeling after applying the cream that goes away
- itching

Rare (affects less than 1 in 1,000 people)
- redness of your skin
- skin rash

If any of the side effects become severe, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

5. HOW TO STORE GALPHARM ACICLOVIR 5% W/W CREAM

Keep out of the reach and sight of children.
Do not store above 25°C. Store in the original package and keep the tube in the outer carton. Do not refrigerate.
Do not use Galpharm Aciclovir 5% w/w Cream after the expiry date which is stated on the tube/carton. Discard 6 weeks after first opening. Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help to protect the environment.

6. FURTHER INFORMATION

What Galpharm Aciclovir 5% w/w Cream contains:

- The **active substance** is aciclovir and the cream contains 50 mg in every 1g (5% w/w).
- The **other ingredients** are Arlatone 983S, dimeticone, cetyl alcohol, liquid paraffin, white soft paraffin, propylene glycol (E1520) and purified water *(see end of Section 2 for further information).*

What Galpharm Aciclovir 5% w/w Cream looks like and contents of the pack
The product is a smooth white to off-white cream and is available in aluminium tubes containing 2g.

Marketing Authorisation Holder
Galpharm Healthcare Ltd., Upper Cliffe Road, Dodworth Business Park, Dodworth, South Yorkshire S75 3SP.

If you need this leaflet in large print or Braille, contact us on 01226 779911.

This leaflet was last updated in April 2010.

LABELLING

Braille reads:

galpharm
cold sore

Braille Reads :

galpharm
aciclovir