

For a short explanation of why the committee made these recommendations and how they might affect practice, see the [rationale and impact section on referral to specialist care](#).

Full details of the evidence and the committee's discussion are in [evidence review D: referral to specialist care](#).

1.5 Managing acne vulgaris

The recommendations in this section cover [mild to moderate](#) and [moderate to severe acne](#).

First-line treatment options

1.5.1 Offer people with acne a 12-week course of 1 of the following first-line treatment options, taking account of the severity of their acne and the person's preferences, and after a discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of each option (see table 1):

- a [fixed combination of topical adapalene with topical benzoyl peroxide](#) for any acne severity
- a [fixed combination of topical tretinoin with topical clindamycin](#) for any acne severity
- a [fixed combination of topical benzoyl peroxide with topical clindamycin](#) for [mild to moderate](#) acne
- a fixed combination of topical adapalene with topical benzoyl peroxide, together with either [oral lymecycline](#) or [oral doxycycline](#) for [moderate to severe](#) acne
- [topical azelaic acid](#) with either oral lymecycline or oral doxycycline for moderate to severe acne.