

U.S. Food and Drug Administration

**Over-the-Counter (OTC) Monograph M028:
Wart Remover Drug Products for Over-the-Counter Human Use
(Posted October 1, 2021)¹**

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SOURCE: 55 FR 33255, Aug. 14, 1990, unless otherwise noted.

Part A—General Provisions

§ M028.1 Scope

An over-the-counter (OTC) wart remover drug product in a form suitable for topical application is generally recognized as safe and effective and is not misbranded if it meets each of the conditions in this OTC monograph and each of the general conditions established in 21 CFR 330.1.

§ M028.3 Definitions

As used in this OTC monograph:

(a) Wart remover drug product. A topical agent used for the removal of common or plantar warts.

¹ Final Administrative Order (OTC000010), effective upon enactment of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Public Law 116-136, on March 27, 2020.

(b) Collodion-like vehicle. A solution containing pyroxylin (nitrocellulose) in an appropriate nonaqueous solvent that leaves a transparent cohesive film when applied to the skin in a thin layer.

(c) Plaster vehicle. A fabric, plastic, or other suitable backing material in which medication is usually incorporated for topical application to the skin.

Part B—Active Ingredients

§ M028.10 Wart remover active ingredients

The product consists of any of the following active ingredients within the specified concentration and in the dosage form established for each ingredient.

- (a) Salicylic acid 12 to 40 percent in a plaster vehicle.
- (b) Salicylic acid 5 to 17 percent in a collodion-like vehicle.
- (c) Salicylic acid 15 percent in a karaya gum, glycol plaster vehicle.

Part C—Labeling

§ M028.50 Labeling of wart remover drug products

(a) Statement of identity. The labeling of the product contains the established name of the drug, if any, and identifies the product as a “wart remover.”

(b) Indications. The labeling of the product states, under the heading “Uses,” any of the phrases listed in § M028.50(b). Other truthful and nonmisleading statements, describing only the indications for use that have been established in § M028.50(b), may also be used, as provided in 21 CFR 330.1(c)(2), subject to the provisions of section 502 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) (21 U.S.C. 352) relating to misbranding and the prohibition in section 301(d) of the FD&C Act (21 U.S.C. 331(d)) against the introduction or delivery for introduction into interstate commerce of unapproved new drugs in violation of section 505(a) of the FD&C Act (21 U.S.C. 355(a)).

(1) “For the removal of common warts. The common wart is easily recognized by the rough ‘cauliflower-like’ appearance of the surface.”

(2) “For the removal of plantar warts on the bottom of the foot. The plantar wart is recognized by its location only on the bottom of the foot, its tenderness, and the interruption of the footprint pattern.”

(c) Warnings. The labeling of the product contains the following warnings under the heading “Warnings”:

(1) For products containing any ingredient identified in § M028.10.

(i) “For external use only.”

(ii) “Do not use this product on irritated skin, on any area that is infected or reddened, if you are a diabetic, or if you have poor blood circulation.”

(iii) “If discomfort persists, see your doctor.”

(iv) “Do not use on moles, birthmarks, warts with hair growing from them, genital warts, or warts on the face or mucous membranes.”

(2) For any product formulated in a flammable vehicle.

(i) The labeling should contain an appropriate flammability signal word, e.g. “extremely flammable,” “flammable,” “combustible,” consistent with 16 CFR 1500.3(b)(10).

(ii) “Keep away from fire or flame.”

(3) For any product formulated in a volatile vehicle. “Cap bottle tightly and store at room temperature away from heat.”

(4) For any product formulated in a collodion-like vehicle.

(i) “If product gets into the eye, flush with water for 15 minutes.”

(ii) “Avoid inhaling vapors.”

(d) Directions. The labeling of the product contains the following information under the heading “Directions”:

(1) For products containing salicylic acid identified in § M028.10(a). “Wash affected area.” (Optional: “May soak wart in warm water for 5 minutes.”) “Dry area thoroughly.” (If appropriate: “Cut plaster to fit wart.”) “Apply medicated plaster. Repeat procedure every 48 hours as needed (until wart is removed) for up to 12 weeks.”

(2) For products containing salicylic acid identified in § M028.10(b). “Wash affected area.” (Optional: “May soak wart in warm water for 5 minutes.”) “Dry area thoroughly. Apply” (select one of the following, as appropriate: “one drop” or “small amount”) “at a time with” (select one of the following, as appropriate: “applicator” or “brush”) “to sufficiently cover each wart. Let dry. Repeat this procedure once or twice daily as needed (until wart is removed) for up to 12 weeks.”

(3) For products containing salicylic acid identified in § M028.10(c). “Wash affected area.” (Optional: “May soak wart in warm water for 5 minutes.”) “Dry area thoroughly. Gently smooth wart surface with emery file supplied.” (If appropriate: “Cut plaster to fit wart.”) “Apply a drop of warm water to the wart, keeping the surrounding skin dry. Apply medicated plaster at bedtime and leave in place for at least 8 hours. In the morning, remove plaster and discard. Repeat procedure every 24 hours as needed (until wart is removed) for up to 12 weeks.”

(e) The word “physician” may be substituted for the word “doctor” in any of the labeling statements in § M028.50.

(f) The phrase “or podiatrist” may be used in addition to the word “doctor” in any of the labeling statements in § M028.50 when a product is labeled with the indication identified in § M028.50(b)(2).

[55 FR 33255, Aug. 14, 1990; 55 FR 37403, Sept. 11, 1990, as amended at 57 FR 44495, Sept. 28, 1992; 59 FR 60317, Nov. 23, 1994]