

What is a cosmetic antibacterial skin-care product?

In Australia, antibacterial skin-care products are regulated as either **therapeutic goods** or **cosmetics**. AICIS regulates the chemical ingredients in non-therapeutic antibacterial skin-care products that meet the definition of a cosmetic.



Cosmetic antibacterial skin-care products



Cosmetic antibacterial skin-care products include:

- cleansers and gels
- face scrubs
- masks
- anti-bacterial hand lotions
- sanitisers and wipes



Cosmetic antibacterial skin-care products must **not** contain any substance in Schedules 2, 3, 4 or 8 to the Poisons Standard.



They can only be advertised or presented for supply as being active against bacteria and must **not** be advertised or presented for supply as being:

- active against viruses, fungi or other microbial organisms (other than bacteria)
- active against a named bacterium that is known to be associated with a disease, disorder or medical condition
- for use in connection with disease, disorders or medical conditions
- for use in connection with piercing of the skin or mucous membrane, for cosmetic or any other purpose
- for use in connection with any procedure associated with the risk of transmission of disease from contact with blood or other bodily fluids
- for use before physical contact with a person who is accessing medical or health services, or who is undergoing any medical or health-care procedure
- for use in connection with a procedure involving venepuncture (puncturing a vein with a needle) or to deliver an injection



Examples



Cosmetic: A skin cleanser with a label that says it removes oils and bacteria is considered a cosmetic.



Therapeutic: A skin cleanser with a label that says it kills staph is considered a therapeutic good because it claims to be active against a named bacterium.



Cosmetic: Wet wipes with a label that says the product cleans the skin and kills 99% of bacteria is considered a cosmetic.



Therapeutic: Wet wipes with a label that says the product kills COVID-19 is considered a therapeutic good because it claims to be active against a virus.

What do we mean by 'presented for supply'?

The way in which a product is presented for supply includes matters relating to the product's name, the way it's labelled or packaged, and any advertising or other informational material associated with the product.

How can I view the Poisons Standard?

You can view and download the Poisons Standard at the Australian Government's Federal Register of Legislation.

What's the definition of a cosmetic?

You can view the legal definition of a cosmetic, and many other terms, in our online glossary.

