

Dispensing and Supply news

Our Dispensing and Supply Team highlights the latest news, information and guidance that community pharmacy contracts should be aware of.



Removal from Part VIII B of the Drug Tariff

The listings for Magnesium glycerophosphate 5mmol/5ml oral suspension and solution plus Quetiapine 100ml/5ml oral suspension have been removed from Part VIII B of the Drug Tariff.

This is because there are alternatives now available and these have been added to Part VIII A effective from 1st June 2017. The alternatives are Magnesium glycerophosphate (magnesium) 121.25mg/5ml (5mmol/5ml) oral solution and Quetiapine 100mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free.

Changes to the Drug Tariff impact on reimbursement so it's important to take note when amendments are made to product listings.

Hints & Tips newsletter

The Pricing Authority produces a quarterly newsletter called *Hints & Tips for dispensing contractors*. We would like to draw your attention to the latest edition (Issue 27) which contains some really useful information and advice regarding:

- Endorsing the correct price on EPS messages;
- The Community Pharmacy Quality Payments Scheme;
- Referred Back (returned) items explained; and
- Universal Credit – claiming free NHS prescriptions.

All published editions of the Hints & Tips newsletter can be found on the Pricing Authority's website: tinyurl.com/dispensinghints-tips

Unsolicited calls claiming to be from Pricing Authority

The NHS Business Services Authority is warning all community pharmacy contractors that it has received reports of pharmacists being contacted by someone falsely claiming to be from the 'PPA' or 'Prescription Services'.

The unsolicited callers are requesting bank details after telling the contractor they are due a refund or there is a problem with a banking mandate. If the request is complied with, this could allow the caller to make a deduction from the contractor's account.

If you receive such a call, please report it to the National Fraud and Cyber Crime Reporting Centre, Action Fraud, on 0300 123 2040.

Experiencing supply issues?

Pharmacy teams who experience problems in obtaining medicines or appliances are reminded to feed this back to our Dispensing and Supply Team.

PSNC reports the feedback received to the Department of Health to support their monitoring of the situation. It is also used in discussions with manufacturers, for example, highlighting problems with contingency arrangements.

Please report using our online feedback forms: psnc.org.uk/feedback

Can it be dispensed on an FP10?

When pharmacy teams receive NHS prescriptions, they must check whether the items prescribed are allowed on the NHS before dispensing otherwise the pharmacy contractor may not be paid for them. Below is a list of some products that we have recently received queries about.

Product	Is the item listed in the Drug Tariff?	Is it in the blacklist?*	Does it have a 'CE' mark?	Can it be dispensed on an FP10?	Additional information
Amielle Comfort vaginal dilator	Yes	n/a	Yes	Yes	This item is a medical device (CE marked), but appears in Part IX of the Drug Tariff.
Cathejell Lidocaine C	Yes	n/a	Yes	Yes	This item is a medical device (CE marked), but appears in Part IX of the Drug Tariff.
LimbO Finger Plaster Cast and Dressing Protector	No	n/a	Yes	No	This item is a medical device (CE marked) and is not listed in Part IX of the Drug Tariff.
SafetyGel absorbent powder	No	No	No	Yes	This item is not a medical device (CE marked) and does not appear in Part XVIII A (the 'blacklist') of the Drug Tariff.

*n/a is because medical devices are not listed in the blacklist.

Please note: If the prescription is an FP10CN or FP10PN (community nurse prescriber), an FP10D (dental prescriber) or an FP10MDA (instalment dispensing), please visit psnc.org.uk/prescriptionforms for more information.

Ask PSNC

The PSNC Dispensing and Supply Team can provide pharmacy teams with support and advice on a range of topics related to the Drug Tariff and reimbursement. Questions asked in recent months have included:

Q. I have a prescription for a patient who was 59 when his prescription was written; however, the patient did not handover the prescription to be dispensed until they were 60. Is the patient age exempt from paying a prescription charge?

A. Yes, subject to the prescription still being within the period of validity. The reverse of a prescription says that entitlement to prescription exemption is based on the patient's circumstances on the day they are asked to pay. In this case, as the patient was over 60 when they entered the pharmacy to have their prescription dispensed, they would therefore be age exempt from paying a prescription charge.

For paper prescriptions, where the patient's age is shown on the front of the prescription as "59" they would only be exempt if their 60th birthday has taken place between the time of being provided with the prescription and making their declaration of exemption. The patient should sign the back of the prescription form to declare that they are indeed over the age of 60 on the day they are asked to pay.

For EPS prescriptions, your EPS system may auto-suggest an exemption category but you may need to override this, e.g. systems might use the date the Dispense Notification (DN) was sent and compare this with the patient's date of birth or certificate validity period recorded on the PMR.

However, the date the DN was sent may be different to the date the patient was asked to pay, causing the need to override the exemption category suggested by the system. Please note, the printed patient's 'age' on a prescription token or dispensing token may show the age at the time of the printing.

You can check the paid/exemption category currently applied onto an electronic prescription using your PMR system.

For further information on EPS exemptions, see psnc.org.uk/eps exemption

Q. How long does a price concession last?

A. If a price concession is granted, it is only valid until the end of the month in which it is granted. PSNC then needs to apply once again the following month if it is an on-going issue. This also means that pharmacies will need to re-submit pricing issue reports (forms can be found here: psnc.org.uk/feedback) every month.

Q. Are young people aged 16, 17 or 18 on apprenticeships automatically exempt from prescription charges?

A. No. Whilst there is an exemption for those who are 16, 17 or 18 in full-time education, NHS Help with Health Costs has confirmed that apprenticeships do not qualify for free prescriptions. Full-time education means you must be receiving full-time instruction from a recognised educational establishment, such as a school, college or university.

However, patients aged 16, 17 and 18 undertaking an apprenticeship who are on a low income are able to apply for help with their health costs using the HC1 form. If they are successful with their application, they will receive an HC2 certificate which would entitle the patient to receive free prescriptions.

Q. Why aren't price concessions granted on the first day of each month?

A. If there is an on-going supply problem, PSNC needs to make a fresh concession application at the start of every month. DH then take time to undertake checks and make a decision. In some cases, there is a need for negotiation between PSNC and DH on an individual product's circumstances. This can take time.

PSNC would like to see changes to the arrangements that would allow contractors to have certainty over what they will be reimbursed much earlier in the month, a point which we have raised with DH.

Look out for more frequently asked questions next month...

If you would like more information on any of the topics covered, the PSNC Dispensing and Supply Team will be happy to help (0203 1220 810 or e-mail info@psnc.org.uk).

Drug Tariff Watch

This is a summary of changes effective from **1st July 2017**.

KEY:

- SC** Special container
- R** Item requiring reconstitution
- * This pack only (others already available)

Part VIIIA additions

Category A:

- Amiodarone 300mg/10ml solution for injection pre-filled syringes **SC** (1)
- Naproxen 250mg/5ml oral suspension (100ml)

Category C:

- Colecalciferol 25,000unit capsules (3) – *InVita D3*
- Colecalciferol 400unit capsules (28) – *InVita D3*
- Colecalciferol 5,600unit capsules (4) – *InVita D3*
- Colecalciferol 50,000unit capsules (3) – *InVita D3*
- Hydrocortisone 0.25% / Crotamiton 10% cream **SC** (15g) – *Eurax Hc*
- Methotrexate 10mg/0.4ml solution for injection pre-filled disposable devices **SC** (1) – *Nordimet*
- Methotrexate 12.5mg/0.5ml solution for injection pre-filled disposable devices **SC** (1) – *Nordimet*

- Methotrexate 15mg/0.6ml solution for injection pre-filled disposable devices **SC** (1) – *Nordimet*
- Methotrexate 17.5mg/0.7ml solution for injection pre-filled disposable devices **SC** (1) – *Nordimet*
- Methotrexate 20mg/0.8ml solution for injection pre-filled disposable devices **SC** (1) – *Nordimet*
- Methotrexate 22.5mg/0.9ml solution for injection pre-filled disposable devices **SC** (1) – *Nordimet*
- Methotrexate 25mg/1ml solution for injection pre-filled disposable devices **SC** (1) – *Nordimet*
- Methotrexate 7.5mg/0.3ml solution for injection pre-filled disposable devices **SC** (1) – *Nordimet*
- Ranitidine 75mg tablets (48) – *Zantac 75*
- Ursodeoxycholic acid 500mg tablets (100) – *Ursofalk*

Part VIIIA amendments

- Ethosuximide 250mg/5ml oral solution

(200ml)
Category C
– *Zarontin* is

- changing to Category A
- Sodium chloride 292.5mg/5ml (1mmol/ml) oral solution sugar free (100ml) Category C – *Viridian Pharma Ltd* is changing to Sodium chloride 292.5mg/5ml (1mmol/ml) oral solution (100ml) Category C – *Viridian Pharma Ltd*

Part VIIIA deletions

- Sodium chloride 0.9% nebuliser liquid 2.5ml unit dose vials (20) – *Saline Steripoules*

Part VIIIB deletions

- Magnesium glycerophosphate (magnesium 121.25mg/5ml (5mmol/5ml)) oral solution
- Magnesium glycerophosphate (magnesium 121.25mg/5ml (5mmol/5ml)) oral suspension
- Quetiapine 100mg/5ml oral suspension

Part IX deletions

Take careful note of removals from Part IX because if you dispense a deleted product, prescriptions will be returned as disallowed.

Product	Size, type and product code
Uriflo Catheterisation Pack	Short (FCP001-S), Long (FCP001-L)
Advadraw	All sizes
Advadraw Spiral	0.5cm x 40cm
Surgihoney	10g
Mepilex Border Lite	10cm x 10cm
Elave Intensive Cream	All sizes
NovoPen 3 Demi	3ml cartridge 0.5 unit dial up / range 1-35 units
NovoFine	12mm/28 gauge
Uriflo sterile drainable night drainage bag with slide T tap	2 litre (F2000)
Uriflo single use non-sterile drainable night drainage bag with slide T tap	2 litre (FSU2)
Uriflo non-drainable night drainage bag	2 litre (F2)
Uriflo elasticated cotton leg bag strap	F10LS
Uriflo catheter retaining strap	FCS-05
Option Connect 2 two piece ostomy system ileostomy bag with filter, to fit up to 45mm Stoma	JH300
Option Connect 2 two piece ostomy system ileostomy bag with filter, Midi, to fit up to 45mm Stoma	JH200
Option Connect 2 two piece ostomy system ileostomy bag with filter, Mini, to fit up to 45mm Stoma	JH100
Option two piece ostomy system colostomy bag with filter, Opaque	50mm (CA50K)