

Consultation on stopping the prescribing of certain items

Views sought on proposals to prevent a group of 18 items from being routinely prescribed in primary care.



NHS Clinical Commissioners (NHSCC) and NHS England have published proposals on 18 medicines which they suggest should no longer be routinely prescribed in primary care, because they are either:

- clinically ineffective, unsafe or not cost effective; or
- the NHS can offer a clinically-proven alternative for patients.

The proposals have been developed by an expert clinical working group, which included representation from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. NHSCC and NHS England are now seeking views on the proposals via a public consultation, which closes on 21st October 2017.

NHSCC and NHS England note that while many doctors and other prescribers are no longer prescribing these 18 medicines for patients, the evidence shows that there is variation across the country and that the NHS currently spends £141 million

per year on these medicines. Subject to the outcome of the consultation, guidance on the initial 18 medicines is likely to be published by NHS England and Clinical Commissioning Groups will be asked to consider its implementation within their communities, ensuring they take into account their duty to reduce health inequalities. The proposed guidance would not remove the clinical discretion of the prescriber in deciding what is in accordance with their professional duties.

NHS England and NHSCC are also seeking people's views on whether a wider list of 3,200 products that are available over-the-counter, without prescription, may be considered appropriate for future restriction. At this stage, they are seeking views generally on this area, for further work and consideration by the clinical working group.

Read more about the consultation at: ow.ly/iWMz30dRD53

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. If they are not allowed, the contractor may not be paid for the item.

Pharmacy staff therefore may wish to check PSNC's 'Dispensing on an FP10 database' (see psnc.org.uk/FP10database) to determine their eligibility. The database provides information on commonly queried medicinal products and appliances and whether they are allowed to be prescribed and dispensed on an NHS FP10 (green) prescription form.

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
Actimist Eye Spray	No	n/a	Yes	No	This item is a medical device (CE marked) and is not listed in Part IX of the Drug Tariff.
Miraspa Hand Sanitizer Gel	No	n/a	Yes	No	This item is a medical device (CE marked) and is not listed in Part IX of the Drug Tariff.
Prevalin Allergy Nasal Spray	No	n/a	Yes	No	This item is a medical device (CE marked) and is not listed in Part IX of the Drug Tariff.
Sterowipe Alcohol Free Cleansing Wipes	No	n/a	Yes	No	This item is a medical device (CE marked) and is not listed in Part IX of the Drug Tariff.

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

Different prescription forms

If you are presented with a prescription form other than the green FP10, here is where you can find the relevant information about what can be prescribed:

- Lilac FP10PN (community practitioner nurse prescriber) – see Part XVIIIB of the Drug Tariff
- Yellow FP10D (dental prescriber) – see Part XVIIIA of the Drug Tariff
- Blue FP10MDA (instalment dispensing) – see psnc.org.uk/mda

Ask PSNC

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

Q. Why do contractors need to report generic shortages each month? If a price concession or NCSO is granted in one month and is still a problem in the next month, why doesn't the price roll over?

A. Price concessions and NCSOs only apply for the month in which they are granted. Because the market fluctuates on a regular basis in terms of stock levels and prices it would not be appropriate to roll the price over from one month to the next.

PSNC regularly monitors the market through contractor reports and communications with wholesalers. Where appropriate, we apply to the Department of Health (DH) for price concessions on products which aren't available at Drug Tariff price. As stock levels and prices can vary across the country, we rely on contractor reports to help feed into our market surveillance and our discussions with DH. It is also important to note that DH may not act on something unless contractors have reported it.

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

A. If there is a supply issue, PSNC needs to make a fresh concession application at the start of each month. The Department of Health (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.

Q. What should I do if I'm experiencing supply issues?

A. Community 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

Q. What should I do if I'm having problems obtaining branded products?

A. If community pharmacy teams are having trouble obtaining branded medicines, please visit our 'Manufacturer contingency arrangements' page (see psnc.org.uk/mca) to find the best way to contact manufacturers about certain products.

However, if you continue to experience issues, remember you can also report this to PSNC using the branded medicine supply issues form at: psnc.org.uk/feedback

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).

Important safety information for people with diabetes

Novo Nordisk A/S has detected that the insulin cartridge holder used in a number of NovoPen® Echo® and NovoPen® 5 batches may crack or break if exposed to certain chemicals, for example, household cleaning agents.

Novo Nordisk is urging people with diabetes using a NovoPen® Echo® and/or NovoPen® 5 from one of the affected batches to contact Novo Nordisk in order to replace the cartridge holder as some could be damaged or subject to damage in the future if not changed.

The batch numbers of the affected batches and further information can be found on Novo Nordisk's press release: tinyurl.com/novopenor

Drug Tariff Watch

Below is a quick summary of the changes due to take place from **1st September 2017**.

KEY:

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

Part VIIIA additions

- Peppermint water BP 1973 (100ml) – Category A
- Aluminium chloride 20% spray **SC** (30ml) – *Odaban*
- Artificial saliva lozenges (30) – *AS Saliva Orthana*
- Conjugated oestrogens 450microgram / Bazedoxifene 20mg modified-release tablets (28) – *Duavive*
- Entecavir 1mg tablets (30) – *Baraclude*
- Entecavir 500microgram tablets (30) – *Baraclude*
- Entecavir 50micrograms/ml oral solution sugar free (210ml) – *Baraclude*
- Lanreotide 120mg/0.5ml solution for injection pre-filled syringe **SC** (1) – *Somatuline Autogel*
- Levofloxacin 5mg/ml eye drops **SC** (5ml) – *Oftaquix*
- Levofloxacin 5mg/ml eye drops 0.3ml unit dose preservative free (30) – *Oftaquix*
- Morphine 100mg modified-release capsules (60) – *Zomorph*
- Nabilone 1mg capsules (20) – *Kinedexe UK Ltd*
- Nabilone 250microgram capsules (20) – *Kinedexe UK Ltd*
- Nitisinone 4mg/1ml oral suspension sugar free **SC** (90ml) – *Orfadin*
- Ondansetron 8mg/4ml solution for injection ampoules (5) – *Zofran Flexi-amp*
- Selegiline 1.25mg oral lyophilisates sugar free (30) **sub-pack SC** (3 x 10) – *Zelapar*
- Somatropin (rbe) 2mg powder and

- solvent for solution for injection pre-filled disposable devices (7) – *Genotropin MiniQuick*
- Tramadol 75mg / Paracetamol 650mg tablets (30) – *Aspire Pharma Ltd*
- Urea 5% cream **SC** (50ml) – *Eucerin Dry Skin Relief*
- Urea 5% cream (75ml) – *Eucerin Dry Skin Relief*

Part VIIIA amendments

- Nitrofurantoin 100mg capsules (30) Category C has changed to Category A
- Nitrofurantoin 50mg capsules (30) Category C has changed to: Category A
- Prednisolone 5mg/5ml oral solution unit dose (10) **sub pack SC** (2 x 5) Category C has changed to Category A

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
Hunter Urology Ltd, Aloe Original catheter (formerly AntiBac)	Male, 8Ch (ABM08)
Juzo Adjustable Compression System	Toe (Left or Right) – all lengths and sizes
Juzo Compression Wrap	Sleeve, Knee and Thigh (all lengths and sizes)
Elastolabo gel	40ml
Corsinel Suportx Abdominal Belt (AMI Medical Ltd)	All lengths and sizes
Biotrol Elite colostomy bag with filter, skin protector adhesive, fabric backing (B. Braun Medical)	<i>Beige</i> – 25mm (36-825), 30mm (36-830) and 35mm (36-835) <i>Transparent</i> – 25mm (30-825) <i>White</i> – 25mm (32-825), 35mm (32-835) and 40mm (32-840)
OstoMart OstoMist Odour Neutraliser Gardenia with Jasmine Drops	25ml (GJN25) and 50ml (GNJ50)
OstoMart OstoMist Odour Neutraliser Tangerine Drops	25ml (TGN25) and 50ml (TGN50)
Biotrol Almayrs Optima ileostomy drainable bag with all over soft non-woven cover (B. Braun Medical)	Beige, 25mm (F008725E)
Biotrol Almayrs Optima ileostomy drainable bag with filter and soft cover (B. Braun Medical)	<i>Beige</i> – Starter hole 10mm (F009510E) and 35mm (F009535E)
Softima ileostomy bag with filter, skin protector, protective cover and “Flow Control” soft outlet (B. Braun Medical)	<i>Beige</i> – Cut-to-fit 16-60mm (043716E) and 28mm (043728E) <i>Transparent</i> – Cut-to-fit 16-60mm (043816E)
Almayrs Twin two piece ostomy system (B. Braun Medical)	<i>Base Plate</i> – 50mm (036250E), 60mm (036260E), 80mm (036280E) <i>Convex Base Plate</i> – 50mm/24mm (036351E), 50mm/27mm (036352E), 50mm/17-30mm (036355E), 60mm/34mm (036361E), 60mm/37mm (036362E), 60mm/17-40mm (036365E) <i>Closed Pouch with filter and protective cover, Beige</i> – 40mm (037240E), 50mm (037250E), 80mm (037280E) <i>High Flow Drainable collection pouch</i> – ALL
Biotrol two piece ostomy system urostomy bag (B. Braun Medical)	<i>Transparent</i> – Child, 50mm (22-650)
Biotrol LockRing 2 two piece ostomy system colostomy bag (B. Braun Medical)	<i>Flange</i> – ALL <i>Closed Bag: Beige</i> – 50mm (22-850); <i>White</i> – ALL; <i>Transparent</i> – ALL <i>Drainable Bag: Beige</i> – 35mm (22-535), 50mm (22-550), 62mm (22-562); <i>White</i> – 50mm (22-450)
Softima Key two piece ostomy system drainable pouch with Filter and “Flow Control” (B. Braun Medical)	<i>Beige</i> – 40mm (63340E) <i>Transparent</i> – ALL