

Dispensing and Supply Factsheet: Is This Item Allowed?

The following factors can affect whether an item is allowed to be prescribed on the NHS or not.



1. What prescribing rights does the prescriber have?

Different types of prescribers hold different prescribing rights. It is important for pharmacy staff to be able to identify which products each prescriber type is entitled to prescribe.

Type of prescriber	Licensed or unlicensed medicine, food, drug, toiletry or cosmetic	Appliances or chemical reagents
Doctors (GPs)	✓ Can prescribe any of these, except products listed in Part XVIII A of the Drug Tariff (the blacklist).	✓ Can prescribe any that are listed in Part IX of the Drug Tariff.
Dentists (See Part XVIII A of the Drug Tariff)	! Can only prescribe products included in the Dental Prescribing Formulary on an FP10D prescription. Can also prescribe by brand for generic items listed in their formulary provided the brand is not listed in Part XVIII A of the Drug Tariff (the blacklist).	! Can only prescribe if the appliance is listed generically in their formulary
Community practitioner nurse prescribers (See Part XVII B(i) of the Drug Tariff)	! Can only prescribe products included in the Nurse Prescribers' Formulary for Community Practitioners. They are allowed to prescribe by brand. Can also prescribe by brand for generic items listed in their formulary provided the brand is not listed in Part XVIII A of the Drug Tariff (the blacklist).	✓ Can prescribe any appliance listed in Part IX of the Drug Tariff as they are included in their formulary.
Optometrist independent prescribers (See Part XVII B(ii) of the Drug Tariff)	✓ Can prescribe any licensed medicine for ocular conditions affecting the eye and surrounding tissue, but are not authorised to prescribe any Controlled Drugs.	! Can only prescribe if the appliance is listed in Part IX of the Drug Tariff and is for ocular conditions affecting the eye and surrounding tissue.
Nurse and pharmacist independent prescribers (See Part XVII B(ii) of the Drug Tariff)	✓ Can prescribe any medicine for any medical condition within their level of expertise and competence (except those in the blacklist). They can prescribe any Controlled Drug in Schedules 2 to 5 (except diamorphine, dipipanone or cocaine for addiction).	✓ Can prescribe any listed in Part IX of the Drug Tariff.
Supplementary prescribers	✓ Can prescribe any medicine (except those in the blacklist) as agreed as part of a patient's clinical management plan.	✓ Can prescribe any listed in Part IX of the Drug Tariff.

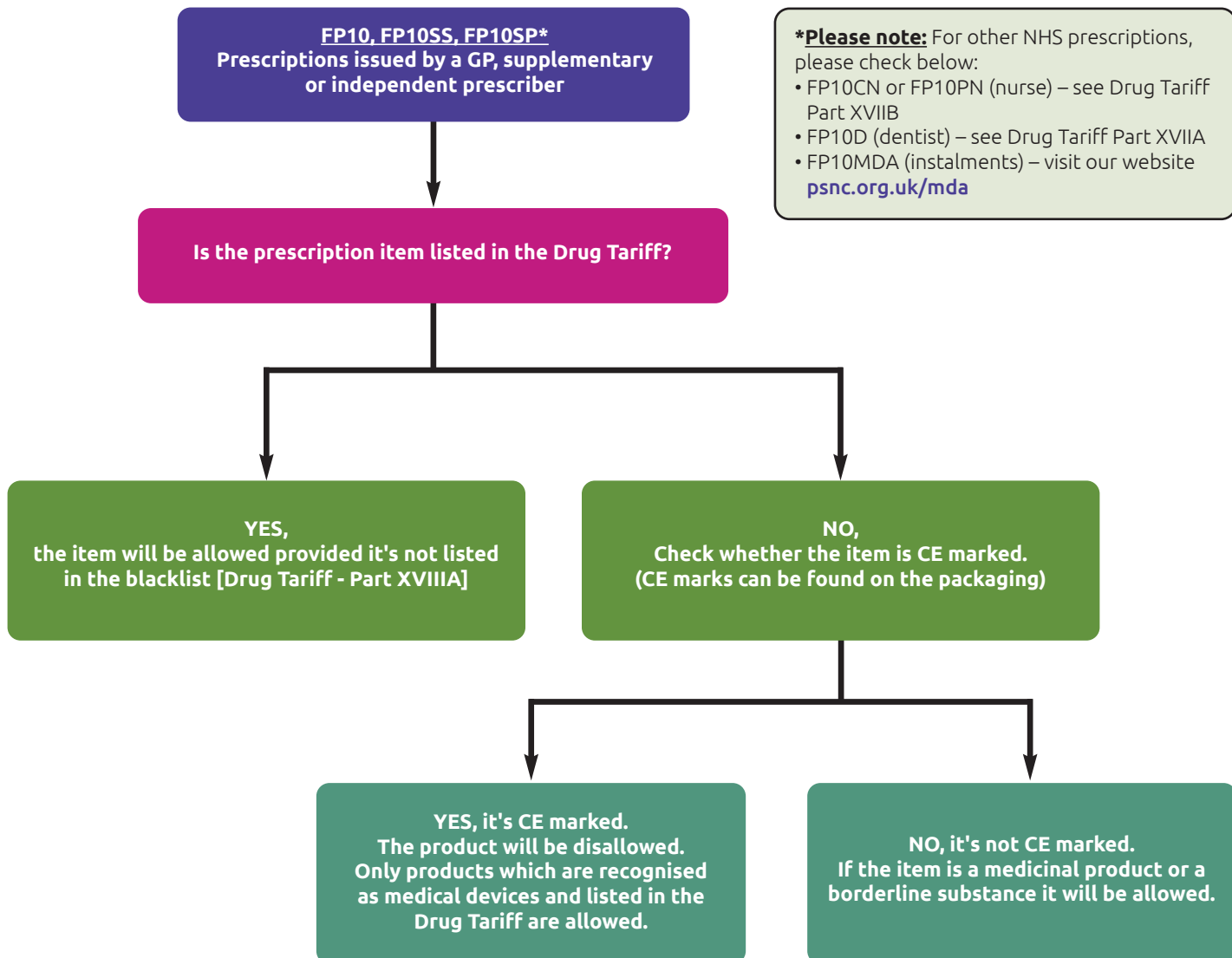
More details on prescribing rights can be found at psnc.org.uk/prescribing

2. Is the item a medicine or a medical device (also known as appliances)?

The easiest way to tell the difference between medicinal products and medical devices is to look for a **CE** mark which signifies that the item is a medical device. The CE mark can normally be found on the packaging of a device.

3. How to check the item is allowed on the NHS

This flowchart should help identify which items can be dispensed against an NHS prescription



4. In conclusion

Medicinal products: Subject to prescribing rights, any food, drug, toiletry or cosmetic may be prescribed on an NHS prescription unless the item is listed in Part XVIII A of the Drug Tariff (the 'blacklist').

Medical devices: If a product has been registered as a medical device (also known as an appliance), it can only be prescribed on an NHS prescription if it is listed in Part IX of the Drug Tariff.

5. Common Disallowed Appliances List

If you are unsure of whether your prescription item is allowed, visit our Common Disallowed Appliance List (psnc.org.uk/disallowedappliances).

6. Further support

If you are still unsure, the Dispensing and Supply Team can help: call us on 0844 381 4180 or 0203 1220 810, alternatively email us at info@psnc.org.uk