

National roll-out of EPS CD prescriptions

Provision for the prescribing of Schedule 2 and 3 Controlled Drugs (CDs) via the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) is now being rolled out across the country.

“Pharmacy teams may find it useful to check when their local GP practices are due to go live on the roll-out schedule”



The national roll-out of CDs in EPS has begun with implementation for TPP SystmOne, Vision and EMIS GP practices.

This means that the number of CD prescriptions that pharmacies receive via EPS will increase significantly as more GP practices have the functionality switched on.

It is therefore important that all pharmacy staff, including locums, are aware of the roll-out and are prepared to dispense an electronic prescription for a Schedule 2 or 3 CD.

If you receive a prescription for a Schedule 2 or 3 CD via EPS, you should dispense it as you would any other electronic prescription.

Pharmacy teams may find it useful to check when the GP practices local to you are going live by checking on the roll-out schedule on the NHS Digital website: ow.ly/yDdX30o0Hv0

It will take a few weeks to complete the roll-out to all practices in England using these systems, and switch on dates will depend on the prescribing system and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) area of the general practice.

At GP practices where roll-out has occurred, CD prescriptions (except for instalment FP10MDAs) can be processed electronically for all patients that use EPS for their existing prescriptions. For GP practices that are also taking part in the EPS Phase 4 pilot, CDs will be prescribed electronically for both patients with and without an EPS nomination.

The national roll-out dates for other GP systems will be announced by NHS Digital in due course.

Further information is available at: psnc.org.uk/eps cds

Gabapentin and pregabalin changes

From 1st April 2019, pregabalin and gabapentin will be reclassified as Schedule 3 CDs. With many GP practices expected to have gone live with EPS CD functionality by this date, pharmacy teams may receive a mix of EPS and paper prescriptions for gabapentin and pregabalin before and after the schedule changes occur on 1st April.

See overleaf for some FAQs on these changes, plus PSNC's briefing provides even more information: ow.ly/slre30o0RhZ

Prescription charge increase

The Government has announced that the NHS prescription charge will rise to £9.00 per item from 1st April 2019.

The cost of prescription pre-payment certificates (PPCs) has remained the same for a further year, with the price of a three-month PPC at £29.10 and a 12-month PPC at £104.00. PPCs offer savings for those needing four or more items in three months or more than 12 items in one year.

PSNC has published a Prescription Charge Card for community pharmacies. Download your copy from: psnc.org.uk/chargecard

Topiramate oral solution

Effective from March 2019, Topiramate oral suspension (both 100mg/5ml and 50mg/5ml) has been deleted from Part VIII B (unlicensed specials and imports) of the Drug Tariff. This is because licensed alternatives (listed below) now appear in Part VIII A:

- Topiramate 100mg/5ml oral suspension SF (Rosemont Pharmaceuticals Ltd)
- Topiramate 50mg/5ml oral suspension SF (Rosemont Pharmaceuticals Ltd)

Any changes to Part VIII of the Drug Tariff impacts reimbursement so it is important to take note when amendments are made to product listings.

Increased access to Freestyle Libre for type 1 diabetes patients

From 1st April 2019, community pharmacy teams may see an increase in prescriptions for Freestyle Libre sensors following a growth in funding which will allow access to flash glucose monitoring throughout the country. See our website for the full story: ow.ly/LbjE30obgYX

Please note, the obligation to dispense an appliance arises only if the pharmacist supplies for such products 'in the normal course of his business'.

For more information on dispensing appliances, please visit: psnc.org.uk/appliances

Ask PSNC: Pregabalin and gabapentin

The PSNC Dispensing and Supply Team answers your questions on the reclassification of pregabalin and gabapentin as Schedule 3 Controlled Drugs (CDs).



Q. Will gabapentin and pregabalin need to be stored in the CD cabinet?

A. No, because they will be exempt from the safe custody requirements.

Q. A patient has presented a gabapentin prescription in April 2019, but it was issued before 1st April – how long is it valid for?

A. The new legislation will apply to prescriptions **dispensed after 1st April 2019, so these prescriptions will only technically be valid for 28 days from the appropriate date.**

Q. Can gabapentin and pregabalin be prescribed on NHS repeat dispensing prescriptions?

A. Schedule 2 and 3 CDs cannot be prescribed as part of the NHS Repeat Dispensing scheme. As of 1st April 2019, this means they will no longer be eligible for repeatable prescriptions.

Q. Will prescriptions for gabapentin and pregabalin need two signatures on the reverse of the prescription?

A. It is good practice to ask individuals, at the point that Schedule 2 or 3 CDs are handed to them, to sign the back of the prescription form (or EPS token reverse) as confirmation of collection, alongside the exemption/charge paid declaration. When the CD is supplied, it is a requirement to mark the prescription with the date of supply at the time the supply is made. See psnc.org.uk/CDvalidity for further information.

Q. Can I dispense a prescription for 'pregabalin 20mg/ml oral solution sugar free' requesting less than 30 days' supply if the product is in a special container with a pack size exceeding 30 days' supply?

A. Where the quantity ordered by the prescriber does not coincide with that of an original pack (or sub-pack when the special container status is placed on the sub-pack) and the product is considered a special container, contractors are required to supply the special container or combination of containers nearest to the quantity ordered and endorse the prescription form with the number and size of these containers.

Should a prescription be issued for 'pregabalin 20mg/ml oral solution sugar free' the pharmacy would still be reimbursed for the full pack size as per existing special container rules even if this exceeds the recommended 30 days' supply.

Q. Will pharmacies be remunerated for the Schedule 3 CD fee if prescriptions issued before 1st April comply with the CD regulations?

A. Irrespective of the date of issue, payment relates to the month in which a prescription is submitted for payment. For example, if a pregabalin or gabapentin prescription is submitted with the bundle prepared in early April (for the March dispensing month) then a Schedule 3 CD fee would not be paid, but if the prescription is submitted for payment with the bundle prepared in May (for the April dispensing month) then a Schedule 3 CD fee would be paid.

Q. Can I make a supply of these drugs under NUMSAS if I receive a request to do so?

A. No, you will not be able to supply gabapentin or pregabalin under NUMSAS from the 1st April 2019. If you receive a NUMSAS request for a Schedule 2 or 3 CD via an NHS 111 referral for a patient on or after 1st April 2019, you should follow the guidance in the NUMSAS Service Specification and either refer the patient to their GP or contact the local GP OOHs provider to discuss a solution, and if necessary request that the patient be contacted by an appropriate healthcare professional.

The NUMSAS referral should be claimed for in the normal way; i.e. recording the name of the item requested and endorsing the reason for no supply, using the code 'NoSupp A' in this scenario.

Q. Will exemption for emergency supply to people with epilepsy be in place?

A. No, community pharmacy teams will not be permitted to provide emergency supplies of pregabalin or gabapentin. Whilst an exception has been made for phenobarbital, no such exception exists for these drugs.

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

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

Drug Tariff Watch: April 2019

Part VIIIA additions

- Baricitinib 2mg tablets (28) and 4mg tablets (28) - Olumiant
- Budesonide 200µg/dose dry powder:
 - inhalation cartridge ■ (100 dose) – Budelin Novolizer
 - inhalation cartridge with device ■ (100 dose) – Budelin Novolizer
- Capecitabine 150mg tablets (60) and 500mg tablets (120) – Dr Reddy's Laboratories (UK) Ltd
- Chlorhexidine gluconate 2% / Isopropyl alcohol 70% solution:
 - 0.67ml applicators (200) – ChloraPrep
 - 1.5ml applicators (20) – ChloraPrep
 - 10.5ml applicators (25) – ChloraPrep
 - 26ml applicators (25) – ChloraPrep
 - 3ml applicators (25) – ChloraPrep
- Choriogonadotropin alfa 250µg/0.5ml solution for injection:
 - pre-filled disposable devices ■ (1) – Ovitrelle
 - pre-filled syringes ■ (1) – Ovitrelle
- Desmopressin 150µg/dose nasal spray ■ (25 dose) - Octim
- Diphtheria (low dose) / Tetanus / Pertussis (acellular component) / Poliomyelitis (inactivated) vaccine(adsorbed) suspension for injection 0.5ml pre-filled syringes ■ (1) – Repevax
- Doxepin 5% cream ■ 30g – Xepin
- Doxylamine 10mg / Pyridoxine 10mg gastro-resistant tablets (20) – Xonvea
- Emtricitabine 200mg / Tenofovir 245mg tablets (30) – Truvada
- Ertapenem 1g powder for solution for infusion vials ■ (1) – Invanz
- Felodipine 2.5mg MR / Ramipril 2.5mg tablets (28) – Triapin
- Fluocinolone acetonide 0.025% / Clioquinol 3% cream ■ 15g and ointment ■ 15g – Synalar C
- Haemophilus type b / Meningococcal C conjugate vaccine powder and solvent for solution for injection 0.5ml vials ■ (1) – Menitorix
- Human papillomavirus (type 6, 11, 16, 18) vaccine (adsorbed) suspension for injection 0.5ml pre-filled syringes ■ (1) – Gardasil
- Human papillomavirus (type 6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52, 58) vaccine (adsorbed) suspension for injection 0.5ml pre-filled syringes ■ (1) – Gardasil 9
- Hydromorphone 1.3mg capsules (56) and 2.6mg capsules (56) – Palladone
- Hydromorphone 16mg MR capsules (56), 24mg MR capsules (56), 2mg MR capsules (56), 4mg MR capsules (56) and 8mg MR capsules (56) – Palladone SR
- Hyoscine hydrobromide 150µg chewable tablets SF (12) – Joy-rides
- Interferon alfa-2a solution for injection pre-filled syringes:
 - 3million units/0.5ml ■ (1) – Roferon-A
 - 4.5million units/0.5ml ■ (1) – Roferon-A
 - 6million units/0.5ml ■ (1) – Roferon-A
- Ketoconazole 200mg tablets (60) – Category A:
- Ketotifen 1mg tablets (60) – Zaditen
- Linezolid 100mg/5ml oral suspension ● (150ml) – Zyvox
- Macrogol compound oral liquid 25ml sachets NPF SF (30) Movicol Ready to Take
- Methadone 10mg/ml oral solution SF (150ml) and 20mg/ml oral solution SF (150ml) – Methadose
- Nafarelin 200µg/dose nasal spray ■ (60 dose) – Synarel
- Olanzapine embonate powder and solvent for suspension for injection vials:
 - 210mg ■ (1) – Zypadhera
 - 300mg ■ (1) – Zypadhera
 - 405mg ■ (1) – Zypadhera
- Omeprazole 40mg powder for solution

KEY:

- Special container
- Item requiring reconstitution

- for infusion vials (5) – Bowmed Ibisqus Ltd
- Paracetamol 250mg orodispersible tablets SF (12) (24) – Calpol Six Plus Fastmelts
- Paricalcitol 1µg capsules (28) and 2µg capsules (28) – Zemplar
- Potassium aminobenzoate 3g oral powder sachets (40) – Potaba
- Progesterone 8% vaginal gel 1.125g applicators (15) – Crinone
- Rifampicin 150mg / Isoniazid 100mg tablets (84) – Rifanah
- Rifampicin 300mg / Isoniazid 150mg tablets (56) – Rifanah
- Sodium phenylbutyrate 940mg/g granules SF (266g) – Ammonaps
- Sodium polystyrene sulfonate powder SF (454g) – Resonium A
- Sodium valproate 150mg MR capsules ■ (100) – Episenta
- Spironolactone 50mg / Furosemide 20mg capsules (28) – Lasilactone
- Tacrolimus 1mg MR tablets ■ (30), 4mg MR tablets ■ (30) and 750µg MR tablets ■ (30) -Envarsus
- Terbutaline 500µg/dose dry powder inhaler ■ (120 dose) – Bricanyl Turbohaler
- Urea [13-C] breath test kit SF:
 - 100mg soluble tablets ■ (1) – Pylobactell
 - 45mg oral powder ■ (1) – Helicobacter Test INFAL for children
 - 75mg oral powder ■ (1) – Helicobacter Test INFAL
- Urea 5% scalp application ■ (100ml) - Eucerin DermoCapillaire Calming

For a full list of the upcoming Drug Tariff changes, including amendments, please visit: ow.ly/J7Vm30o7zdf

Part IX deletions

Product	Size, Type, Product Code
WOUND MANAGEMENT DRESSINGS - Tegaderm Superabsorber	Rectangular, 10cm x 20cm
WOUND MANAGEMENT DRESSINGS - Topical Negative Pressure System Accessories - Gauze wound dressing (Smith & Nephew)	5cm x 17cm
EYE DROPS - Hypromellose - Vizulize Hypromellose 0.3%	10ml bottle
EYE DROPS - Sodium Hyaluronate - Vizulize 0.1%	10ml bottle
EYE DROPS - Sodium Hyaluronate - Vizulize Intensive 0.3%	10ml bottle
INDWELLING PLEURAL CATHETER DRAINAGE SYSTEMS - Rocket IPC - Drainage Line	R544 10-00-DL
INDWELLING PLEURAL CATHETER DRAINAGE SYSTEMS - Rocket IPC - Valve Cap	R544 10-00-CP
TRACHEOSTOMY AND LARYNGECTOMY APPLIANCES - Tracheostomy Tube Holders - Primus-Plain	71-0029-00
CHEMICAL REAGENTS - Biosensor Strips - GlucoRx Evolve Glucose Test Strips	50 strips
CHEMICAL REAGENTS - DETECTION STRIPS, BLOOD FOR KETONES (Beta-Hydroxybuterate) - GlucoRx Evolve Ketone Test Strips	10 strips