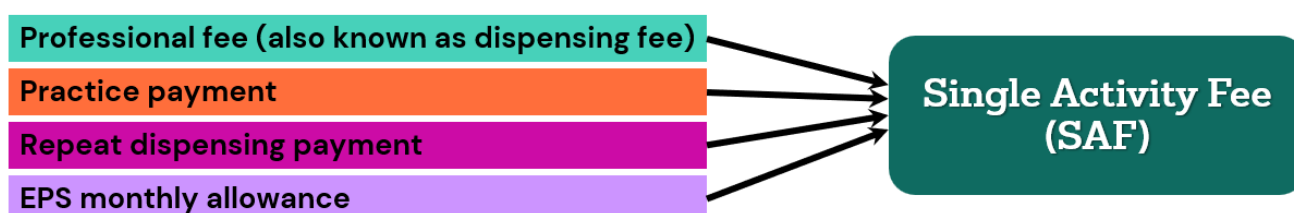


# Dispensing Factsheet: Understanding the Single Activity Fee

This factsheet explains what the Single Activity Fee (SAF) is with examples of items that attract multiple SAFs as well as those that attract no SAF.

## What is the Single Activity Fee?

In December 2016, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) introduced the SAF consolidating a range of payments into one single fee (see image below). **The SAF for items dispensed from 1 April 2025 is £1.46.**



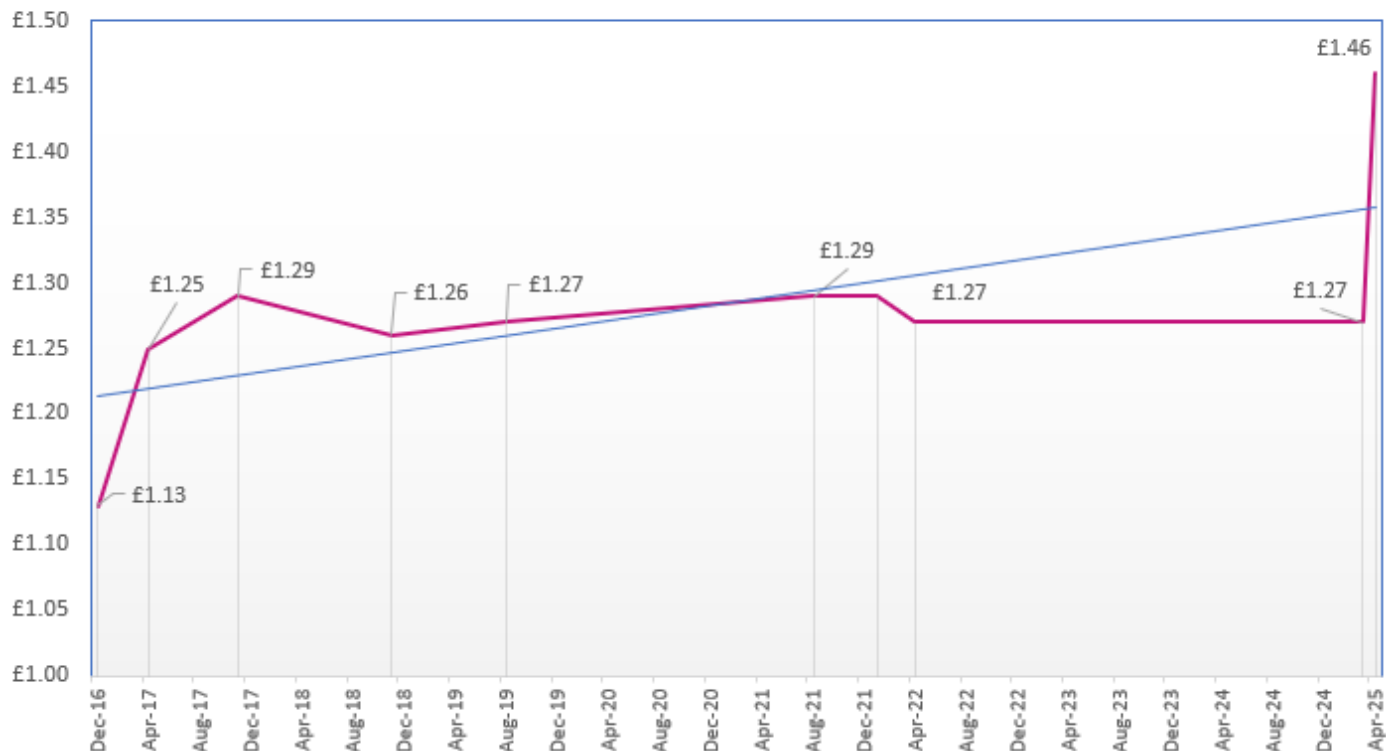
A SAF is paid automatically for all eligible items meaning no additional endorsement is required.

## How often does the SAF change?

The SAF is reviewed and adjusted based on forecasts of total dispensed item volumes to ensure that fee delivery remains within the agreed funding envelope each year. Since its introduction in December 2016, the SAF rate has had only minor adjustments in response to funding and volume changes.

On 1 April 2025, the SAF increased by from £1.26 to £1.46 per item – a 19p increase agreed as part of the [Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework \(CPCF\) arrangements for 2024/25 and 2025/26](#). This increase in SAF was calculated to account for a predicted 3% rise in prescription volume.

## Changes to SAF between December 2016 – April 2025



### Are there items which not do attract any SAFs?

A SAF is payable for most dispensed items. However, there are certain exceptions. For example, some lymphoedema base garments can be ordered with 'additional options' or optional extras which do not attract additional prescription charges or SAFs. These additional options are classed as no-charge or no-fee items because they are regarded as optional modifications to the base garment. Please note although lymphoedema base garments attract one SAF per pair any 'additional options' ordered on the same form or on their own do not attract any SAFs i.e. no additional fees are payable other than those applicable to the base garment.

### Do certain items attract multiple SAFs?

Yes, multiple SAFs are payable for:

- **combination packs** – these attract one fee for each item within a pack (including packs that contain a combination of different strengths of the same drug). For example, Femoston® 1/10mg tablets automatically attracts two SAFs because each pack contains two different items; Estradiol 1mg tablets and a combined pill containing Estradiol 1mg and Dydrogesterone 10mg.
- **different strengths of the same drug and formulation ordered on the same form** – for example, a prescription for Warfarin 1mg tablets and Warfarin 5mg tablets on the same form would attract two SAFs.
- **different formulations or presentations of the same drug or preparation ordered on the same form** – for example, a prescription with both Prednisolone 1mg tablets and Prednisolone 2.5mg gastro-resistant tablets on the same form would attract two SAFs.
- **treatment packs including a drug in powder form together with a solvent in the same pack** – for example, a prescription ordering Varivax® vaccine powder and solvent for suspension for injection 0.5ml vials would attract two SAFs.
- **each interaction / “pick-up” for prescriptions for oral liquid methadone or other eligible items prescribed using an instalment prescription form (FP10MDA) and supplied to the patient as specified in the prescriber’s direction.**
- **‘assorted’, ‘mixed’ or ‘various’ flavours ordered on the same prescription form** – a separate SAF is paid for each distinct flavour supplied and endorsed on prescriptions which clearly specify ‘assorted’, ‘mixed’ or ‘various’ flavours of the same product. For Electronic Prescription Service (EPS), the prescriber must apply the ‘AF’ endorsement to the prescriber endorsement field to ensure a separate SAF is paid for each flavour dispensed and endorsed. For further information see our [Multiple flavours factsheet](#).
- **more than one piece of elastic hosiery (anklet, legging, knee-cap, below-knee, above knee or thigh stocking) ordered on the same form** – for example, one pair of elastic compression hosiery ordered on an NHS prescription form attracts two SAFs. Patients who pay for their prescriptions would pay two charges.

- **different types or sizes appliances ordered on the same form** – for example, a prescription with both Mesorb® 10cm x 10cm and Mesorb® 10cm x 15cm on the same form would attract two SAFs.
- **drugs requiring use an applicator or dropper not included in manufacturer's pack** – for example, where an Estriol 0.01% vaginal cream pack ordered by the prescriber does not include an applicator, and the pharmacist considers that one is required, an Estriol vaginal applicator type 1 should be supplied and the prescription form endorsed accordingly. The pharmacy will receive two SAFs; one for the cream and the other for the applicator.

### Counting items totals

An understanding of how many SAFs an item attracts is important for the correct declaration of item totals on your FP34C submission via the Manage Your Service (MYS) portal. It is important your FP34C submission is completed accurately with the total number of SAFs declared in your total items figures section. The declared item totals (for EPS and paper prescriptions) are used to calculate your pharmacy's Advance payment. Inaccurate or understated item totals could have an adverse impact on the pharmacy cashflow as the Advance payment may be lower than expected.

- **For FP10 prescriptions** – to make counting of the total number of paper items easier for the FP34C declaration each month, pharmacy teams are encouraged to enter a value of the total number of SAFs in the '*For dispenser No. of Prescriptions on form*' box in the bottom lefthand corner of the front of the FP10 paper prescription. At the end of each month, pharmacy staff involved in the end of month submission process can add up the SAFs populated in this box to calculate the total number of paper prescription items for the FP34C declaration. **Please note any figures contained in the '*For dispenser No. of Prescriptions on form*' box at the front of the FP10 form is not used by the NHSBSA for pricing. NHSBSA rely on the item figures included in the FP34C declaration to calculate the advance payment.**
- **For EPS prescriptions** – Some PMR systems can generate reports showing the monthly total number of EPS forms and items to declare as part of the end of month submission.



## Useful links

- See our factsheet [Endorsing instalment forms](#) and [Dispensing Controlled Drugs page](#) for guidance on correct endorsing of FP10MDA prescriptions.
- Use the [NHS medicines database \(dm+d\)](#) to view information on the number of dispensing fees (SAFs) payable for each item. See our page for [guidance on using dm+d](#).