

Dispensing Factsheet: The Drug Tariff Preface

The first section of the Drug Tariff is the Preface. This section contains valuable information relevant to both the current and the next edition.

The Preface should ideally be checked each month because it provides important changes to the Drug Tariff such as:

- products entering or being removed from Part VIII;
- products changing between categories;
- changes to the brand used for pricing Category C lines;
- items entering or being deleted from the discount not deducted (DND) list;
- items entering or being deleted from other Parts such as VIIIB, IX and ACBS; and
- price changes.

This guide explains the importance of checking the Preface monthly and the key things to look out for.

Why it is important to check the Preface each month

Changes in the Drug Tariff affect reimbursement.

It is important to note which lines are entering, changing category or pack size in, or being removed from, the Drug tariff as this can affect reimbursement and endorsement requirements. For

example, only particular categories of medicines are eligible for certain payments such as OOP expenses. Prescriptions without the appropriate endorsement can lead to incorrect or delayed payment.

Removal and notice of removal of appliances from Part IX is also very important to note, as appliances not listed in the Drug Tariff will be disallowed.

Advance Notice

The Preface begins with changes which have been planned for the following month's edition of the Drug Tariff. These will not come into effect until the first day of the following month; however, they are useful to look at to get an idea of what will be entering or is being removed from the Drug Tariff.

N.B. Not all changes will be listed because prior notice may not be given for all items.

Current edition changes

This follows all the "Advance Notice" changes. This part provides you with a quick summary of changes coming into effect for this month's prescriptions. The table below outlines key changes to look out for:

	Part VIIIA	Part VIIIB	Part IX
Additions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which pack size(s) are being added? • Which category is it going into? (some payments such as OOP can only be claimed against certain categories) • Is it a special container or item requiring reconstitution? • Are any endorsements required? • Has the product moved from Part VIIIB? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which pack size(s) are being added? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the product? • Who will supply it? • Which pack size(s) are being added? <p><i>N.B. Only Drug Tariff listed pack sizes are allowed on an NHS prescription.</i></p>
Deletions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are all pack sizes being removed? • Has it been discontinued? • Are any endorsements required? <p><i>N.B. If there are no pack sizes left in the Drug Tariff, the item will need to be endorsed fully (i.e. brand or manufacturer name, price and pack size) in future.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the product moved to Part VIIIA? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which month will it be deleted in? (there is usually a three month notice of deletion) <p><i>N.B. If you dispense a deleted product, prescriptions will be returned as disallowed and payment will not be made for dispensing the item.</i></p>
Other changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has its special container status changed? • Is it moving to a new category? • If Category C, which brand will be used for payment? <p><i>N.B. Also be aware of the category of an item when claiming certain payments (e.g. OOP expenses).</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the reimbursement price changed? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the product name changing? • Will there be a dual listing? <p><i>N.B. A "dual listing" is a period of grace when both old and new names will be passed for payment so prescribers have time to change their habits.</i></p>

TOP TIPS

Remember:

- Incorrect endorsement can lead to incorrect or delayed payment for items.
- Look out for additions or deletions to Part II of the Drug Tariff; these relate to the list of "Drugs for which discount is not deducted".
- Double check which section of the Preface you are looking at to be certain of the date in which the change becomes effective. Are you looking in the "Advance Notice" section or the changes to current Drug Tariff section?
- There are sometimes other additions, deletions and alterations in the Preface that are not about Part VIII and Part IX items. These might not be directly relevant to the day-to-day running of your pharmacy, but they may help you to keep abreast of current NHS prescribing and NHS pharmacy services.