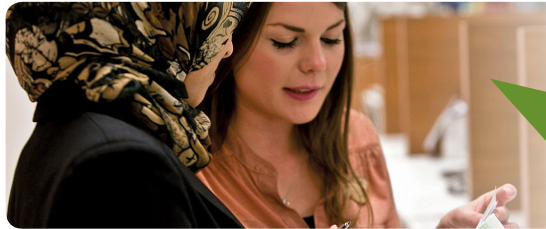


Endorsing Webinar: Your Questions Answered

Following PSNC's endorsing webinar in June, our Dispensing and Supply Team is working to respond to the questions you posed on the night but they didn't have time to answer.



Q. Could you explain in more detail the difference between an unlicensed/imported special and a special obtain? How can I check if the product I have ordered is an unlicensed special?

A. Below we will define what each are and how to check the classification of a product.

Unlicensed specials/imports

Unlicensed specials are unlicensed medicinal products manufactured in the UK for human use and are made to order to meet the individual need of a patient. To identify an unlicensed special, pharmacy staff should look for the wholesalers' MHRA specials licence number on the Certificate of Conformity/Certificate of Analysis (COC/COA) supplied with the product.

An imported medicine is licensed in the country of origin but is not licensed in the UK. For imports, an importer's licence number can be found on the accompanying paperwork.

Special obtains

Wholesalers typically categorise products as being either a "standard lines" or "special obtains" item. Items classified as 'special obtains' are infrequent, low volume products which are not normally stocked by mainline wholesalers who then source these products on a bespoke, ad-hoc basis to meet demand. As "special obtains" products often have reference to the word 'special' in their description, there is a common misconception that these items are to be treated as unlicensed specials. Special obtains products would not be supplied with a COC/COA and will not have any details of a manufacturer's specials

licence number or an importer's licence number on the accompanying paperwork.

Special obtains products often include, gluten-free foods and other borderline substances, certain dressings, stoma and incontinence appliances. **Do not assume that all special obtains items are unlicensed specials or imported lines.**

It is important to double check the classification of the product you are ordering, as an incorrect endorsement, could mean you will miss out on the relevant fees such as 'OOP'/'XP' for 'special obtains' and 'SP' for unlicensed specials/imports.

PSNC TOP TIP

How can you check the classification of a product? A good resource for checking whether a product is an unlicensed special is the *Dictionary of Medicines and Medical Devices*. Here you can check if a product is classed as a 'Drug Tariff Special Order', a non-Drug Tariff 'Special Order' or an 'Imported' product. Find the dictionary at: dmd.medicines.org.uk

If you would like more information on this topic, the PSNC Dispensing and Supply Team will be happy to help (0203 1220 810 or email info@psnc.org.uk).

Drug Tariff Watch

The first section of the Drug Tariff is the Preface. The Preface lists additions, deletions and alterations which may affect reimbursement and endorsement requirements.

Each month PSNC provides a summary of the changes due to take place. For the changes due to take effect from 1st September 2018, please visit: ow.ly/YonG30lnCbE

You may also wish to see our *Dispensing Factsheet: The Drug Tariff Preface* at: psnc.org.uk/dtresources

Reporting fraudulent prescription forms

Community pharmacy contractors are advised to note the change of contact details for the reward scheme for fraudulent prescription forms, as listed in Part XIVA of the Drug Tariff.

Pharmacists who are eligible to claim a reward under the scheme should contact:
NHS Counter Fraud Authority
Skipton House
80 London Road
London
SE1 6LH

Freephone: 0800 028 4060
Tel: 0207 895 4500
Website: www.cfa.nhs.uk

Supply issues

Community pharmacy teams who experience problems in obtaining medicines or appliances are reminded to feed this back to PSNC's Dispensing and Supply Team.

PSNC reports the feedback received to the Department of Health and Social Care 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

Watch the webinar

View an on-demand version of the webinar at: psnc.org.uk/endorsingwebinar. This page also contains a downloadable version of the slide pack used in the webinar.