

# Changes to FP10 NHS Prescription Forms and EPS Tokens



## Free of charge items

### Contraceptives

**Paper:** Although contraceptives remain free-of-charge (FOC) items, there will no longer be a category 'X' – "was prescribed free of charge contraceptives".

Prescriptions for **FOC items only** no longer need a patient signature.

**EPS:** The message code 0010 – "was prescribed FOC contraceptives" still needs to be populated, but new EPS Tokens with FOC items **only** do not need to be submitted to the NHSBSA.

### Treatments for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

Prescribers can apply a new endorsement code 'FS' (for 'free supply') to indicate that an item is being prescribed to treat an STI and can be provided FOC.

**Paper:** As with other FOC items, there is no patient tick box for this category. Any prescription with the prescriber 'FS' endorsement should be placed in a **red separator** when submitted.

**EPS:** 'FS' must be present in the EPS prescriber endorsement field. Manual addition of 'FS', e.g. as part of dose instructions, is not acceptable as the NHSBSA does not see this information. A new message code (0017) for "was prescribed FOC sexual health medication" will be added to EPS systems.

**Paper prescriptions should be issued until EPS systems have been updated.**

**Paid prescription box:** Moved to the top of the new form/Token. Patients or their representatives should place a mark here **only** if any prescription charges are paid. **Signature and date box:** Pharmacy teams should **always** ensure that this section of prescription is completed if prescription charges are collected, or if an exemption (other than age exemption and real-time exemption) has been declared by the patient or their representative. **Name and address sections on the reverse:** These will not appear on the new form/Token and the reverse is no longer separated into Parts 1, 2 & 3. **Collector of Schedule 2 & 3 CDs signature box:** Pharmacy teams are reminded to ensure that this section is completed, where appropriate. Some teams may capture the Controlled Drug (CD) collector's details electronically on their PMR system. **Evidence Not Seen box:** Moved to the bottom of the new form/Token. Pharmacy teams are reminded to ensure that this section is completed, where appropriate.

## Exemption categories

### Age exemption

**Paper:** The under 16s and 60 or over age exemption categories have been merged into a single category 'A' – "is 60 years of age or over; or is under 16 years of age".

**EPS:** Until the same changes have been made to EPS systems, pharmacy teams can continue to select EPS message codes 'A' (0002) or 'C' (0004), where appropriate.

### War pension exemption

**Paper/EPS:** The exemption category 'C' – "has a valid War Pension exemption certificate" has been re-worded to read "Prescription exemption certificate issued by Ministry of Defence".

### Universal Credit (UC)

**Paper:** Qualifying patients should now mark box 'U' – "Universal Credit and meets the criteria" on the new forms and continue to use box K "get income-based Jobseeker's Allowance" on old forms.

**EPS:** A new message code is being created for UC (0016). Until changes have been made to EPS systems, pharmacy teams should continue to select "Income based Job Seeker's Allowance" (0012) as a workaround.

## New stock FP10 (1219) (in circulation early 2020\*)

## Old stock FP10 (0515) (being phased out\*)

\*Until stock of the FP10 (0515) forms/Tokens are exhausted, pharmacies should expect to receive both (existing and new) versions of the prescription forms/Tokens.

**For more information, please visit [psnc.org.uk/exemptionbriefing](https://psnc.org.uk/exemptionbriefing)**

Also see **Requirements and Guidance for Endorsement in the EPS**