# Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee

# Funding and Contract Subcommittee Agenda

**Friday 20th November 2020**

**Zoom virtual meeting commencing at 13:30 pm**

**Items are confidential where marked**

**Members:** David Broome, Peter Cattee (Chairman), Tricia Kennerley, Andrew Lane, Margaret MacRury, Has Modi, Garry Myers (Vice - Chair), Bharat Patel, Adrian Price, Anil Sharma

**In attendance:** Simon Dukes, Mike Dent, Jack Cresswell, Suraj Shah, Rob Thomas

1. Welcome from Chair
2. Apologies for absence
3. Declarations or conflicts of interest
4. Minutes of last meeting **(Confidential Appendix FCS 01/11/20)** and matters arising

**REPORTS**

1. Remuneration
   1. 2020/21 contract sum forecast out-turn **(Confidential Appendix FCS 02/11/20)**
   2. C-19 operating cost survey **(Confidential Appendix FCS 03/11/20)**
   3. Costing services and overheads **(Confidential Appendix FCS 04/11/20)**
   4. PAC report and EPS errors **(Confidential Appendix FCS 05/11/20)**
2. Reimbursement
   * 1. Category M October 2020 **(Confidential Appendix FCS 06/11/20)**
     2. Margin update **(Confidential Appendix FCS 07/11/20)**
     3. Category M and margins discussion paper **(Confidential Appendix FCS 08/11/20)**
     4. Reporting for price concessions **(Confidential Appendix FCS 09/11/20)**

1. General funding update **(Appendix FCS 10/11/20)**
2. Statistics **(Appendix FCS 11/11/20)**
3. Any other business

**Appendix FCS 10/11/20**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Subject | General funding update |
| Date of meeting | 20 November 2020 |
| Committee/Subcommittee | FunCon |
| Status | Not confidential |
| Overview | General update on various funding issues |
| Proposed action(s) | No action required |
| Author(s) of the paper | PSNC Pharmacy Funding Team |

**General funding update**

The following items are matters of report:

**Pharmacy closures & openings – estimates to July 2020**

We used e-dispensary data published by NHS Digital to search for pharmacies which appeared to close or open in the months since the announcement of the funding cuts in October 2016. The latest data was published in August 2020, so the full month of July data is included.

We looked at the opening and closing months of each pharmacy within the dataset. We filtered out any pharmacies which appear to have been open for a total of less than 28 days as these mostly appear to be intermediary sales e.g. a change of ownership / change of F code which lasted only a few days, before another change of ownership / change of F code occurred.

A waterfall chart of net change in pharmacy numbers per month indicates a drop of c-360 in the total number of pharmacies.

Chart, waterfall chart

Description automatically generated

We also looked at the type of each pharmacy to determine the net change for different sectors:



The next chart shows the decline in overall number of pharmacies:

Chart, line chart

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**Price concessions**

August 2020

* PSNC applied for a total of **48** price concessions in August 2020; DHSC wrote to PSNC on 27th August 2020 and 2nd September 2020 with the list of final prices.
  + **34** price concessions agreed between DHSC and PSNC
  + **12** products had prices imposed as PSNC was unable to agree to the final prices proposed by DHSC
  + **2** products had a no concessionary price imposed by DHSC
* The £15m Category M price increase, [implemented in June](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/dhsc-to-inject-15m-increase-into-reimbursement-prices/), continued to help stabilise some of the drug prices

September 2020

* PSNC applied for a total of **52**price concessions in September 2020; DHSC wrote to PSNC on 1st October 2020 with the list of final prices
  + **39** price concessions agreed between DHSC and PSNC (this included 8 products where we agreed to no concession)
  + **10** products had prices imposed as PSNC was unable to agree to the final prices proposed by DHSC
  + **3** products had a no concessionary price imposed by DHSC
* The £15m Category M price increase, [implemented in June](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/dhsc-to-inject-15m-increase-into-reimbursement-prices/), continued to help stabilise some of the drug prices

October 2020

* PSNC applied for a total of **44**price concessions in October 2020; DHSC wrote to PSNC on 30th October 2020 with the list of final prices
  + **36** price concessions agreed between DHSC and PSNC
  + **5** products had prices imposed as PSNC was unable to agree to the final prices proposed by DHSC
  + **3** products had a no concessionary price imposed by DHSC
* From October, the £15m per month uplift which was [**implemented in June**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/dhsc-to-inject-15m-increase-into-reimbursement-prices/), was [reduced by £10m per month](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/october-category-m-prices-announced/)

**Price concessions summary**

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated with low confidence

**Market movements with implications for supply**

The following **26** supply disruption alerts and medicine supply notifications (issued by DHSC between 21 August and 31 October 2020) were published on the PSNC website by the Dispensing & Supply team to assist pharmacy teams:

| **Date** | **Drug** |
| --- | --- |
| 28/10/2020 | [Haloperidol 5mg/5ml oral solution sugar free (Thame Laboratories)](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-haloperidol-5mg-5ml-oral-solution-sugar-free-thame-laboratories/) |
| 28/10/2020 | [Nalcrom (sodium cromoglicate) 100mg capsules](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-nalcrom-sodium-cromoglicate-100mg-capsules/) |
| 28/10/2020 | [Prednisolone 5mg suppositories (RPH Pharmaceuticals) – Update](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/supply-disruption-alert-prednisolone-5mg-suppositories-rph-pharmaceuticals/) |
| 28/10/2020 | [Zonisamide 25mg, 50mg and 100mg capsules](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-medicine-supply-notification/) |
| 28/10/2020 | [H2-antagonists (Cimetidine, Famotidine and Nizatidine) – Update](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/supply-notification-h2-antagonists-cimetidine-famotidine-and-nizatidine/) |
| 26/10/2020 | [23 valent polysaccharide pneumococcal vaccine (Pneumovax 23) pre-filled syringes (Merck Sharp and Dohme Limited)](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/vaccine-supply-notification-23-valent-polysaccharide-pneumococcal-vaccine-pneumovax-23-pre-filled-syringes-merck-sharp-and-dohme-limited/) |
| 21/10/2020 | [Ferrous Fumarate 322mg/Folic Acid 350mcg (Pregaday) tablets (Recipharm)](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-ferrous-fumarate-322mg-folic-acid-350mcg-pregaday-tablets-recipharm/) |
| 21/10/2020 | [Phytomenadione (Konakion MM Paediatric) 2mg/0.2ml ampoules (Cheplapharm) – Update](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/supply-notification-phytomenadione-konakion-mm-paediatric-2mg-0-2ml-ampoules-cheplapharm/) |
| 21/10/2020 | [Fluoxetine 30mg capsules (Advanz)](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-fluoxetine-30mg-capsules-advanz/) |
| 21/10/2020 | [Salazopyrin En-Tabs (sulfasalazine) 500mg tablets](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-salazopyrin-en-tabs-sulfasalazine-500mg-tablets/) |
| 15/10/2020 | [DDAVP (Desmopressin) 0.01% w/v (100 micrograms/ml) intranasal solution](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-ddavp-desmopressin-0-01-w-v-100-micrograms-ml-intranasal-solution/) |
| 15/10/2020 | [Dulcolax (bisacodyl) 5mg suppositories](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-dulcolax-bisacodyl-5mg-suppositories/) |
| 06/10/2020 | [Lorazepam (Ativan) 4mg/ml Solution for injection (Pfizer)](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-lorazepam-ativan-4mg-ml-solution-for-injection-pfizer/) |
| 06/10/2020 | [Normacol granules and Normacol Plus granules – Update](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-sterculia-normacol-62-w-w-granules-sterculia-frangula-bark-normacol-plus-62-8-w-w-granules/) |
| 06/10/2020 | [Nabumetone 500mg tablets - Update](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-nabumetone-500mg-tablets/) |
| 06/10/2020 | [Oral contraceptive tablets (various brands)](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-oral-contraceptive-tablets-various-brands/) |
| 02/10/2020 | [Desmopressin (Octim) 150mcg per actuation nasal spray (Ferring Pharmaceuticals)](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-desmopressin-octim-150mcg-per-actuation-nasal-spray-ferring-pharmaceuticals/) |
| 28/09/2020 | [Enalapril 20mg tablets (various suppliers) – Update](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-enalapril-20mg-tablets-various-suppliers/) |
| 28/09/2020 | [Metronidazole (Acea) 0.75% gel – Update](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-metronidazole-acea-0-75-gel/) |
| 28/09/2020 | [Fluticasone propionate (Flixotide) 0.5mg/2ml and 2mg/2ml Nebules](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-fluticasone-propionate-flixotide-0-5mg-2ml-and-2mg-2ml-nebules/) |
| 23/09/2020 | [Cloral betaine 707mg tablets](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/shortage-notice-cloral-betaine-707mg-tablets/) |
| 18/09/2020 | [Esomeprazole 40mg iv powder for solution (Grunenthal, Ranbaxy, Tilomed)](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-esomeprazole-40mg-iv-powder-for-solution-grunenthal-ranbaxy-tilomed/) |
| 04/09/2020 | [Availability of Evorel products (Theramex) – Updated](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/availability-of-evorel-products-theramex/) |
| 21/08/2020 | [Diazepam (Diazemuls) 10mg/2ml emulsion for injection](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-diazepam-diazemuls-10mg-2ml-emulsion-for-injection/) |
| 21/08/2020 | [Lithium carbonate (Priadel®) 200mg and 400mg modified release tablets](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/supply-disruption-alert-lithium-carbonate-priadel-200mg-and-400mg-modified-release-tablets/) |
| 21/08/2020 | [Lodoxamide 0.1% (Alomide) eye drops (Novartis) – Update](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-lodoxamide-0-1-alomide-eye-drops-novartis/) |

**New specials products added to dm+d**

Due to ongoing supply issues affecting the availability of certain licensed products and following recommendations for prescribers to consider the prescribing of unlicensed alternatives as indicated in recent ‘Supply Disruption Alerts’ and ‘Medicine Supply Notifications’ published by the DHSC, PSNC requested the addition of new ‘(Special Order)’ or ‘(Imported (Country))’ Actual Medicinal Product (AMP) listings to the NHS dictionary of medicines and devices (dm+d) for prescribers to select in order to facilitate electronic prescribing of these products.

Over the past 12 months, PSNC has monitored these supply updates communicated by DHSC and submitted applications for all recommended unlicensed alternatives to be added to dm+d as quickly as possible. Of the requests submitted by PSNC, to date a total of **36** new unlicensed products (see table below) have been added to dm+d by the NHSBSA. This will help prevent any unnecessary delays in getting medicines to patients and better utilise resources of GPs and pharmacy teams at a time where they are needed most to support the NHS and its patients through the pandemic

The addition of any recommended unlicensed alternatives to dm+d means prescribing system suppliers can opt to make these selectable for prescribers issuing both paper and electronic prescriptions. This would allow prescribers to select the unlicensed version, where appropriate, so that pharmacists can dispense the required product and be reimbursed accordingly. It also avoids pharmacy teams from having to request handwritten paper FP10 prescriptions or refer patients back to their GP for an alternative. Given that many GPs have now completely stopped issuing paper prescriptions for their patients and that over 90% of all items are now prescribed using EPS in primary care, it is both impractical and unreasonable for pharmacies to request paper prescriptions for any unlicensed products without a listing on dm+d. Additionally, with the EPS Phase 4 roll out, most paper prescriptions will be replaced by Phase 4 tokens. As more practices go live with Phase 4, pharmacies will see the majority of paper prescriptions replaced by Phase 4 tokens.

PSNC will continue to work with DHSC to ensure that any new specials products recommended as suitable alternatives are added to dm+d in a timely manner.

**Table: List of new special products recently added to dm+d**

| **Generic or Virtual Medicinal Product (VMP) name** | **Brand or Actual Medicinal Product (AMP) name** |
| --- | --- |
| Bupropion 150mg modified release tablets | Bupropion 150mg modified-release tablets (Imported) |
| Cimetidine 200mg tablets | Cimetidine 200mg tablets (Imported) |
| Cimetidine 400mg tablets | Cimetidine 400mg tablets (Imported) |
| Cimetidine 800mg tablets | Cimetidine 800mg tablets (Imported) |
| Cloral betaine 707mg tablets | Cloral betaine 707mg tablets (Imported) |
| Cycloserine 250mg capsules | Cycloserine 250mg capsules (Imported) |
| Danazol 100mg capsules | Danazol 100mg capsules (Special Order) |
| Danazol 200mg capsules | Danazol 200mg capsules (Special Order) |
| Desmopressin 150micrograms/dose nasal spray | Desmopressin 150micrograms/dose nasal spray (Imported) |
| Desmopressin 150micrograms/dose nasal spray (Special Order) |
| Enalapril 20mg tablets | Enalapril 20mg tablets (Imported) |
| Ethinylestradiol 20microgram / Drospirenone 3mg tablets | Ethinylestradiol 20microgram / Drospirenone 3mg tablets (Imported) |
| Fluoxetine 10mg tablets | Fluoxetine 10mg tablets (Imported) |
| Fluoxetine 30mg capsules | Fluoxetine 30mg capsules (Imported) |
| Fluoxetine 40mg capsules | Fluoxetine 40mg capsules (Imported) |
| Fluoxetine 40mg capsules (Special Order) |
| Fluphenazine decanoate 100mg/1ml solution for injection ampoules | Modecate 100mg/1ml solution for injection ampoules (Imported (Germany)) |
| Fluphenazine decanoate 25mg/1ml solution for injection ampoules | Modecate 25mg/1ml solution for injection ampoules (Imported (Germany)) and ((Denmark)) |
| Fluticasone 500micrograms/2ml nebuliser liquid unit dose vials | Fluticasone 500micrograms/2ml nebuliser liquid unit dose vials (Imported) |
| Fluticasone 2mg/2ml nebuliser liquid unit dose vials | Fluticasone 2mg/2ml nebuliser liquid unit dose vials (Imported) |
| Ketotifen 1mg/5ml oral solution sugar free | Ketotifen 1mg/5ml oral solution sugar free (Imported) |
| Ketotifen 1mg/5ml oral solution sugar free (Special Order) |
| Mianserin 10mg tablets | Mianserin 10mg tablets (Imported) |
| Mianserin 30mg tablets | Mianserin 30mg tablets (Imported) |
| Mirtazapine 15mg orodispersible tablets | Mirtazapine 15mg orodispersible tablets (Imported) |
| Mirtazapine 45mg orodispersible tablets | Mirtazapine 45mg orodispersible tablets (Imported) |
| Moclobemide 300mg tablets | Moclobemide 300mg tablets (Imported) |
| Nabumetone 500mg tablets | Nabumetone 500mg tablets (Imported) |
| Pethidine 50mg tablets | Pethidine 50mg tablets (Imported) |
| Phenelzine 15mg capsules | Phenelzine 15mg capsules (Imported) |
| Phenelzine 15mg capsules (Special Order) |
| Phenelzine 15mg tablets | Phenelzine 15mg tablets (Special Order) |
| Phytomenadione 2mg/0.2ml solution for injection ampoules | Konakion MM Paediatric 2mg/0.2ml solution for injection ampoules (Imported (France)) |
| Prednsiolone sodium phosphate 5mg suppositories | Prednsiolone sodium phosphate 5mg suppositories (Imported) |
| Synphase tablets | Synphase (Imported (Canada)) and (Imported (Germany)) |
| Zafirlukast 20mg tablets | Zafirlukast 20mg tablets (Special Order) |

**27 products on dm+d reclassified as specials**

Following checks carried out by PSNC, **27** products listed on the NHS dictionary of medicines and devices (dm+d) have been updated to reflect their unlicensed status. This means that the respective product entries have been annotated with either ‘(Special Order)’ or ‘(Imported (Country))’ against their Actual Medicinal Product (AMP) names.

The new annotation ensures that when these products are prescribed using their updated AMP names, they will be recognised by the NHSBSA as non-Part VIIIB unlicensed medicinal products (specials) so that pharmacy contractors are reimbursed accordingly. In addition, these unlicensed products automatically qualify for Group Item Discount Not Deducted (DND) status meaning that no discount deduction will be applied to their reimbursement prices. Prior to the change, reimbursement for these products was calculated according to their dm+d list price (where available) with no £20 ‘SP’ fee payable, despite any endorsement.

| **Generic or Virtual Medicinal Product (VMP) name** | **Brand or Actual Medicinal Product (AMP) name** |
| --- | --- |
| Amobarbital 50mg / Secobarbital sodium 50mg capsules | Tuinal 100mg Pulvules (Special Order) |
| Amobarbital sodium 200mg capsules | Sodium Amytal 200mg capsules (Special Order) |
| Amobarbital sodium 60mg capsules | Sodium Amytal 60mg capsules (Special Order) |
| Butobarbital 100mg tablets | Soneryl 100mg tablets (Special Order) |
| Desmopressin 2.5micrograms/dose nasal spray | Desmospray 2.5micrograms/dose nasal spray (Imported (Germany)) |
| Ethinylestradiol 2microgram tablets | Ethinylestradiol 2microgram tablets (Special Order) |
| Iloprost 100micrograms/1ml solution for infusion ampoules | Ilomedin 100micrograms/1ml solution for infusion ampoules (Imported (Greece)) |
| Larvae sterile | BioBag 50 2.5cm x 4cm dressing kit (Special Order) |
| BioBag 100 4cm x 5cm dressing kit (Special Order) |
| BioBag 200 5cm x 6cm dressing kit (Special Order) |
| BioBag 300 6cm x 12cm dressing kit (Special Order) |
| BioBag 400 10cm x 10cm dressing kit (Special Order) |
| Larvae 100 (Special Order) |
| Larvae 100 30cm x 30cm dressing pack (Special Order) |
| Larvae 100 Boot pack (Special Order) |
| Larvae 200 (Special Order) |
| Larvae 200 30cm x 30cm dressing pack (Special Order) |
| Larvae 200 Boot pack (Special Order) |
| Primaquine 7.5mg tablets | Primaquine 7.5mg tablets (Special Order) |
| Secobarbital sodium 100mg capsules | Seconal Sodium 100mg capsules (Special Order) |
| Secobarbital sodium 50mg capsules | Seconal Sodium 50mg capsules (Special Order) |
| Sertindole 12mg tablets | Serdolect 12mg tablets (Imported (Denmark)) |
| Sertindole 16mg tablets | Serdolect 16mg tablets (Imported (Denmark)) |
| Sertindole 20mg tablets | Serdolect 20mg tablets (Imported (Denmark)) |
| Sertindole 4mg tablets | Serdolect (Imported (Denmark)) |
| Thalidomide 25mg tablets | Talidex 25mg tablets (Special Order) |
| Tryptophan 500mg capsules | Optimax 500mg capsules (Special Order) |

**Are you dispensing incorrectly written prescriptions for specials?**

In the last few months PSNC has received several reports from pharmacy contractors who have incurred significant losses from dispensing unlicensed medicinal products (specials) because prescriptions have not been issued/written correctly by the prescriber.

Where prescribing of a specials product is considered appropriate by the prescriber, a prescription must be issued with the correct product selected by the prescriber to indicate that a special is required. If a prescription for a specials is issued/written incorrectly by the prescriber, pharmacy contractors are strongly advised to seek replacement prescriptions for any specials products(s) to ensure accurate reimbursement.

To minimise the risk of dispensing at a loss, PSNC issued the [guidance](https://psnc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Dispensing-unlicensed-medicines-factsheet.pdf) for pharmacy contractors to ensure prescriptions (both EPS and paper) for specials products are correctly issued/written by prescribers.

**Serious Shortage Protocol SSP07 Fluoxetine 30mg capsules and SSP08 Salazopyrin® EN-Tabs 500mg**

In response to significant ongoing disruption to the supply of Fluoxetine 30mg capsules and Salazopyrin® EN-Tabs 500mg, two Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) were issued by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) on 20 October 2020.

[SSP07: Fluoxetine 30mg capsules](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) authorises three Fluoxetine 10mg capsules OR one Fluoxetine 20mg capsule and one Fluoxetine 10mg capsule as suitable alternatives. **SSP07 currently expires on Tuesday 22 December 2020.**

[SSP08: Salazopyrin® EN-Tabs 500mg](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) outlines the procedures to following providing a suitable alternative product, generic Sulfasalazine 500mg gastro-resistant (GR) tablets. **SSP08 currently expires on Friday 4 December 2020.**

Both SSPs have been authorised by the Secretary of State to help manage the supply of these products and to try to ensure that fewer patients need to return to their prescriber. **SSPs may be amended or revoked at any time, view up-to-date information on the NHSBSA website**.

Other active SSPs

* [SSP05 for Fluoxetine 10mg capsules](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) is currently due to expire on **31 March 2021**

**Are you submitting Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) claims using tokens correctly?**

PSNC received feedback from NHSBSA that EPS tokens used to make claims for any supplies made against SSPs are not being submitted correctly by some contractors. For electronic prescriptions, contractors have the option to endorse and submit SSP claims either electronically or manually using EPS tokens. Pharmacy contractors are reminded that when using tokens to submit SSP claims, the **tokens must be placed in the**[**red separator**](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-supply/payment-accuracy/prescription-submission/how-to-prepare-your-prescription-bundle/)**on top of the relevant paid/exempt prescription bundle in a secure manner** (for example, by securing the red separator to the main prescription bundle with an elastic band to avoid any tokens and paper prescriptions from slipping out of the separator during transit) before submitting to NHSBSA in the usual way. The NHSBSA require any tokens with SSP claims to be placed securely in the red separator so that they are seen by an operator. If tokens with SSP claims are not placed in the red separator and are mixed in with the other tokens for non-payment (i.e. signed, paid and exempt tokens except for those of patients who are age-exempt), these will not be processed for payment by the NHSBSA.

**The table below shows which tokens need to be submitted to NHSBSA at the end of the month**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Tokens for payment – SSP tokens submitted in the red separator** | **Tokens for non-payment – tokens to submit with the bundle but not included in the red separator** | **Tokens that are NOT required to be submitted to NHSBSA** |
| 1. NCSO endorsed tokens with SSP claims must be placed in the red separator on top of the relevant paid/exempt prescription bundle in a secure manner (for example, by securing the red separator to the main prescription bundle with an elastic band to avoid any tokens and paper prescriptions from slipping out of the separator during transit)  for end of month submission | 1. Tokens with a paid declaration indicating that a patient has paid for their prescription(s) 2. Unless a patients’ exemption has been confirmed by RTEC\*, any tokens capturing an exemption declaration (excluding age-exemption) must be submitted to the NHSBSA for exemption checking purposes \*Real Time Exemption Checking 3. Tokens which have a signature of collector of Schedule 2 and 3 Controlled Drugs can be submitted to NHSBSA. Contractors should ensure that the box on the FP34C submission document, to indicate that tokens have been sent in, is ticked. All tokens for non-payment should be kept separate at the top of the end of month batch as these aren’t processed for payment by the NHSBSA | 1. Tokens which are for age exempt patients (60 and over or under 16), as this exemption is automatically captured through the patient’s date of birth 2. Tokens which are for contraceptive-only items. (Note. Any prescriptions with a mixture of contraceptives and non-contraceptives prescribed will still require a token to be submitted) |

If using tokens for SSP claims, either the prescribing or dispensing token can be used to [endorse the required information](https://psnc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/PSNC-Briefing-045.19-Serious-Shortage-Protocols-SSPs-Endorsements-Factsheet.pdf) and capture the patient declaration before submitting the tokens to the NHSBSA in the red separator. Contractors should submit any claims for the SSPs in the usual manner, i.e. by the 5th of the month following that in which supply was made. Please note that **SSPs cannot be supplied past the period of SSP validity**. Any other items on the same prescription form (including any items that are owing) can continue to be dispensed as usual but must be submitted for payment within three months of expiry of the SSP.

**Requirement to sign prescriptions suspended from November 2020**

The Government has temporarily suspended the requirement for patients (or their representatives) to sign the back of NHS prescription forms or EPS tokens. This change comes into effect from 1st November 2020 and will last initially until 31st March 2021.

As part of the social distancing measures to limit the spread of the coronavirus and to assist in the management of the serious risk or potentially serious risk to human health in response to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, Ministers in England have agreed to temporarily suspend the need for patient signatures on prescription forms.

The changes will be kept under review and further extensions may be granted if there continues to be a cross infection risk. The temporary suspension will be lifted once it is deemed safe for patients to resume signing of forms. The changes are outlined in Part XVI of the November 2020 [Drug Tariff](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/drug-tariff), as highlighted on the [NHSBSA website](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/amendment-nhs-community-pharmacist-consultation-service-cpcs-and-part-xvi-notes-charges).

**Implementing these changes to the dispensing process**

Whilst the suspension is active, pharmacy teams must mark the relevant exempt or paid category on the FP10 form or EPS token on behalf of the patient

Please note this is not required if a Real Time Exemption Check (RTEC) confirms a patient’s exemption.

For EPS, the patient charge (or exemption) declaration is made via the electronic message, with the token used solely for checking the exemption.

As per the usual dispensing process, patients should continue to be asked to pay any relevant prescription fee and, evidence of their entitlement provisions apply in the usual way.

**Implementing these changes to the submission process**

During this period, NHSBSA **will not switch** any unsigned paper prescription forms between exempt and chargeable groups. It will therefore be very important during the end of moth submission process for contractors to check that the reverse of every paper FP10 prescription form is clearly marked as exempt or paid and sorted into their correct exempt or chargeable groups before the bundle is despatched to the relevant NHS Prescription Services division.

**Drug Tariff to go fully paperless from April 2021**

From April 2021, the Drug Tariff will no longer be printed and distributed by the NHSBSA. The Preface section of the [**November 2020 Drug Tariff**](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/drug-tariff) has been updated to reflect that **March 2021 will be the final month in which a printed Drug Tariff will be circulated to community pharmacies.**

From January 2021, where pharmacy contractors have a registered email address with the NHSBSA, a link to the PDF copy will be supplied to that email address each month. Should any issues arise in receiving a link to the PDF version of the Drug Tariff at the registered email address, pharmacy teams can contact NHSBSA at the following email address: [**nhsbsa.drugtariff@nhs.net**](mailto:nhsbsa.drugtariff@nhs.net). This email address can also be used by pharmacy teams to request addition of an email address to the circulation list. Pharmacy teams should note that this mailbox will not be monitored until January 2021.

**Disallowed EPS items submitted for payment in July 2020**

In July 2020 (the most recently priced dispensing month), a total of **490 items** issued via EPS were returned as disallowed by the NHSBSA. The NHSBSA has shared with PSNC a list (see table below) of the top 10 disallowed prescription items submitted for payment via EPS in the dispensing month of July 2020.

| **Actual Medicinal Product Pack (AMPP)** | **Number of EPS items disallowed in July 2020** |
| --- | --- |
| Cerumol olive oil ear drops (Thornton & Ross Ltd) 10 ml | 136 |
| C-View dressing 6cm x 7cm (Aspen Medical Europe Ltd) 10 dressing | 23 |
| Calpol Soothe & Care saline 0.9% nasal drops (McNeil Products Ltd) 10 ml | 14 |
| Carmellose 0.5% eye drops (Colorama Pharmaceuticals Ltd) 10 ml | 12 |
| C-View dressing 10cm x 12cm (Aspen Medical Europe Ltd) 10 dressing | 11 |
| C-View dressing 10cm x 12cm (Aspen Medical Europe Ltd) 1 dressing | 10 |
| Water for irrigation 1litre bottles (Baxter Healthcare Ltd) 1 bottle | 10 |
| C-View dressing 6cm x 7cm (Aspen Medical Europe Ltd) 1 dressing | 10 |
| C-View dressing 12cm x 12cm (Aspen Medical Europe Ltd) 10 dressing | 7 |
| Sodium chloride 0.9% nasal drops (Sandoz Ltd) 10 ml | 6 |

*Note: C-View dressings item were present within the Part IX of the June 2020 Drug Tariff but were deleted from the July 2020 Drug Tariff*

The Dispensing and Supply team has issued [guidance](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/disallowed-eps-items-submitted-for-payment-in-july-2020/) for contractors to try and minimise the risk of dispensing prescriptions for disallowed items. Following publication of this news story, NHS Digital has agreed to pick up with NHSBSA to identify ways of minimising prescribing and dispensing of disallowed items using EPS.

**Endorsing non-Part VIII EPS items**

PSNC and the NHSBSA have been receiving more queries about electronic prescriptions endorsed without the necessary information for drugs not listed in Part VIII of the Drug Tariff. This follows an increase in usage of the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) during the COVID-19 pandemic. EPS prescriptions submitted without the necessary information lead to prescription returns (referred backs) and delays in payment.

When dispensing a drug that is not listed in Part VIII of the Drug Tariff, the EPS message must include:

* the quantity dispensed (if different from the quantity prescribed);
* the pack size used; and
* the brand or manufacturer/wholesaler’s name (if the order is in the ‘generic’ or pharmacopeial form).

**Example EPS endorsing scenarios**

**1. Endorsing by selection of AMPP (if a price held by NHSBSA)**

Your PMR may enable you to add the relevant information by selecting the actual medicinal product pack (AMPP) dispensed from the NHS dm+d. Make sure the correct AMPP is selected, as endorsement of the wrong product or pack size could lead to inaccurate reimbursement.

**2. Endorsing invoice price (if no price held by NHSBSA)**

If the NHSBSA doesn’t hold a price for an item, your endorsement should also include the pack size invoice price. When adding an invoice price endorsement to an AMPP, make sure this matches the pack size supplied.

**3. AMPP not listed on dm+d**

If a product or pack size dispensed is not listed in dm+d, select the prescribed product (the generically prescribed virtual medicinal product (VMP)) and make an endorsement including invoice price, pack size and supplier details.

The process for submitting AMPP information using different systems can vary, but your PMR’s website or guidance documents should be able to assist. You may also wish to enquire whether system prompts are available to help remind your team to include the relevant information.

Additional guidance is available at: [psnc.org.uk/EPSsubmission](http://psnc.org.uk/EPSsubmission)

**Priadel withdrawal paused**

Essential Pharma has informed DHSC of its decision to reverse the discontinuation of Priadel 200mg and 400mg tablets from the UK market with immediate effect, whilst facilitating pricing discussions. As such the discontinuation notice issued to DHSC earlier this year has been withdrawn. It has been confirmed that supplies of Priadel 200mg and 400mg tablets are sufficient to meet current UK demand and work is ongoing to ensure stock availability after April 2021.

**Update summary of applications submitted to DHSC for re-determination of special container status**

Since August 2019, DST has reviewed a total of over **4,000** products to determine if they meet special container criteria. The three main criteria under which PSNC has focused its attention are drugs that are considered hygroscopic, viscous external preparations and those packaged into containers from which it is not practical to dispense the exact quantity. Of those checked, PSNC has identified and submitted applications for over **650** products that appear to meet one or more of the special container criteria but are not annotated as such in the Drug Tariff and/or dm+d. See our ‘Notice of changes to special container status of products’ page [here](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-supply/dispensing-a-prescription/special-containers/special-containers-notice-of-change-to-product-special-container-status/). The table below provides latest information on the number of products that have been submitted to DHSC and NHSBSA for further investigation and the status of these applications.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Special container criteria** | **Number of products checked** | **Number of products applied for** | **Number of products still under assessment by NHSBSA** | **Number of products currently in discussion with DHSC** | **Number of products agreed by DHSC as meeting criteria** |
| **Effervescent or hygroscopic** | 201 | 161 | 115 | 31 | 18 |
| **Viscous external preparations** | 864 | 81 | 32 | 42 | 7 |
| **Packaged in a container from which it is not practicable to dispense exact quantity** | 2,961 | 433 | 414 | 5 | 55 |
| **Total** | **4,026** | **675** | **561** | **78** | **80** |

**Newly launched FreeStyle Libre 2 sensors enter the Drug Tariff and Discount Not Deducted (DND) list from November 2020**

The new FreeStyle Libre 2 Sensors recently launched by Abbott Diabetes Care Ltd have been added to the Appliances section in Part IXA of the November 2020 Drug Tariff and included in the list of Drugs for which Discount is Not Deducted (DND). The introduction of the second-generation FreeStyle Libre 2 Flash Glucose Monitoring system follows the launch of the original FreeStyle Libre system which saw a growth in prescribing after extra NHS funding was made available from April 2019.

As there is no discount offered by the manufacturer for purchases of the FreeStyle Libre 2 Sensors, following representations by PSNC to avoid contractors dispensing this appliance at a loss, DHSC agreed to its addition to the DND list.

**Further additions to the DND list**

Since January 2020, following contractor feedback and through internal DST checks, applications for Discount Not Deducted (DND) status have been submitted to the NHSBSA and DHSC for **over 300** products. Of these, **280** products have been agreed to by DHSC and added to the DND list in the Drug Tariff.

The following products were added to the DND list between January and December 2020:

| **Month** | **Product name** | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Dec-20 | Adrenaline (base) 100micrograms/1ml (1 in 10,000) dilute solution for injection ampoules | | | | |
| Adrenaline (base) 500micrograms/5ml (1 in 10,000) dilute solution for injection ampoules | | | | |
| Adrenaline (base) 1mg/10ml (1 in 10,000) dilute solution for injection ampoules | | | | |
| Baraclude 0.05mg/ml oral solution | | | | |
| Biktarvy 50mg/200mg/25mg tablets | | | | |
| Budenofalk 3mg gastro-resistant capsules | | | | |
| Budenofalk 9mg gastro-resistant granules sachets | | | | |
| Dacepton 100mg/20ml solution for infusion vials | | | | |
| Dacepton 30mg/3ml solution for injection cartridges | | | | |
| Desitrend 1000mg granules sachets | | | | |
| Desitrend 500mg/5ml concentrate for inf ampoules | | | | |
| EleCare powder | | | | |
| Ensure Plus Juice liquid x 6 flavours | | | | |
| Episenta 300mg/3ml solution for injection ampoules | | | | |
| Epivir 150mg tablets | | | | |
| Evotaz 300mg/150mg tablets | | | | |
| Feraccru 30mg capsules | | | | |
| Ikervis 0.1% eye drops 0.3ml unit dose | | | | |
| Levosert 20micrograms/24hours intrauterine device | | | | |
| Odefsey 200mg/25mg/25mg tablets | | | | |
| Setofilm 4mg orodispersible films | | | | |
| Setofilm 8mg orodispersible films | | | | |
| Vemlidy 25mg tablets | | | | |
| Verkazia 0.1% eye drops 0.3ml unit dose | | | | |
| Viread 123mg tablets | | | | |
| Viread 33mg/g granules | | | | |
| Xifaxanta 200mg tablets | | | | |
| Nov-20 | FreeStyle Libre 2 Sensors | | | | |
| Optifast shake oral powder sachets x 3 flavours | | | | |
| Optifast soup oral powder sachets | | | | |
| Oct-20 | Adrenaline (base) 5mg/5ml (1 in 1,000) solution for injection ampoules | Fortisip 2kcal liquid x 5 flavours | KetoCal 2.5:1LQ liquid | Nutricia Flavour Modjul powder x 3 flavours | Pulmocare liquid |
| Adrenaline (base) 10mg/10ml (1 in 1,000) solution for injection ampoules | Nutrison Protein Intense liquid |
| Aptamil Pepti 1 powder | Fortisip Compact Fibre Starter Pack liquid | KetoCal 3:1 powder | Nutrison Protein Plus Energy liquid | Renapro Shot 60ml bottles x 2 flavours |
| Aptamil Pepti 2 powder | Fortisip Compact Protein liquid x 5 flavours | KetoClassic 3:1 Breakfast porridge | PKU Air20 yellow liquid | Renastep liquid |
| Aymes Shake Extra powder 85g sachets x 4 flavours | Fortisip Compact Protein Starter Pack liquid | KetoClassic 3:1 Meal bolognese 126g pouches | PKU Air20 green liquid | Resource Energy liquid x 4 flavours |
| Aymes Shake Extra Starter Pack powder | Fortisip Extra liquid x 2 flavours | KetoClassic 3:1 Meal chicken 135g pouches | PKU Air20 gold liquid | Resource Fibre 2.0 liquid x 6 flavours |
| Azathioprine 50mg powder for solution for injection vials | Fortisip Yogurt Style liquid x 3 flavours | KetoClassic 3:1 Savoury meal | PKU Air20 red liquid | Scandishake Mix oral powder 85g sachets x 5 flavours |
| Branched-Chain Amino Acid Module powder | GA1 Anamix Junior oral powder 18g sachets | Keyo semi-solid food 100g pots | PKU Air20 white liquid | SOD Anamix Infant powder |
| Calogen emulsion x 3 flavours | GA1 Maxamum powder | Leucine100 oral powder sachets | PKU Anamix Infant powder | Souvenaid liquid x 2 flavours |
| Calogen Extra Shots emulsion x 2 flavours | Glytactin BetterMilk 15 oral powder sachets x 2 flavours | Loprofin SNO-PRO drink | PKU Easy Shake & Go oral powder 34g sachets | TYR Lophlex LQ 10 liquid |
| DocOmega oral powder 4g sachets | Glytactin BetterMilk Lite 20 oral powder 46g sachets | Mannitol 40mg inhalation powder capsules with two devices | PKU explore10 oral powder 25g sachets x 2 flavours | TYR Lophlex LQ 20 liquid |
| Duocal Super Soluble powder | Glytactin Build 10 oral powder 16g sachets | MMA / PA Anamix Junior oral powder 18g sachets | PKU explore5 oral powder 12.5g sachets | Vitasavoury powder 50g sachets x 4 flavours |
| Enshake oral powder 96.5g sachets x 4 flavours | Glytactin Complete 15 81g bars x 2 flavours | MSUD Anamix Junior LQ liquid | PKU GMPro oral powder 33.3g sachets | XPhe jump 10 liquid x 4 flavours |
| Ensure liquid x 3 flavours |
| Ensure Plus Advance liquid x 5 flavours | Glytactin Restore 5 oral powder 20g sachets x 2 flavours | MSUD express20 oral powder 34g sachets | PKU Lophlex Sensation 20 | XPHEN TYR Tyrosidon Free AA Mix powder |
| Ensure Plus Crème x 4 flavours | Glytactin Restore Lite 20 oral powder 38g sachets | MSUD Lophlex LQ 20 liquid | PKU start powder |  |
| Essential Amino Acid Mix powder | Glytactin RTD 10 liquid x 2 flavours | Neocate Syneo powder | PKU Synergy oral powder 33g sachets |
| Forticare liquid x 3 flavours | HCU Anamix Infant powder | Nepro HP liquid x 2 flavours | Pregestimil LIPIL powder |
| Forticreme Complete dessert x 4 flavours | HCU Anamix Junior LQ liquid | Nutilis Complete Creme Level 3 custard x 3 flavours | Pro-Cal shot x 3 flavours |
| Nutilis Complete Drink Level 2 liquid x 2 flavours |
| Fortini 1.0 Multi Fibre liquid x 4 flavours | HCU Anamix Junior oral powder 36g sachets | Nutilis Fruit Dessert Level 4 x 2 flavours | ProSource jelly x 4 flavours |
| Fortini Creamy Fruit Multi Fibre x 2 flavours | HCU Lophlex LQ 20 liquid | Nutramigen 3 with LGG powder | ProSource Plus liquid 30ml sachets x 2 flavours |
| Fortini Smoothie Multi Fibre liquid x 2 flavours | Heparon Junior powder |
| Sep-20 | Rybelsus 14mg tablets | | | | |
| Rybelsus 3mg tablets | | | | |
| Rybelsus 7mg tablets | | | | |
| Aug-20 | Prednisolone 20mg/application foam enema | | | | |
| Aripiprazole 400mg powder and solvent for suspension for injection pre-filled syringes | | | | |
| Aripiprazole 400mg powder and solvent for suspension for injection vials | | | | |
| Jul-20 | Acetylsalicylic acid (Aspirin powder) | | | | |
| Ammonium bicarb | | | | |
| BioBag 100 4cm x 5cm dressing kit | | | | |
| BioBag 200 5cm x 6cm dressing kit | | | | |
| BioBag 300 6cm x 12cm dressing kit | | | | |
| BioBag 400 10cm x 10cm dressing kit | | | | |
| BioBag 50 2.5cm x 4cm dressing kit | | | | |
| Desmospray 2.5micrograms/dose nasal spray | | | | |
| Emtricitabine 200mg / Tenofovir alafenamide 10mg tablets | | | | |
| Emtricitabine 200mg / Tenofovir alafenamide 25mg tablets | | | | |
| Ethinylestradiol 2microgram tablets | | | | |
| Iloprost 100micrograms/1ml solution for infusion ampoules | | | | |
| Larvae 100 | | | | |
| Larvae 100 Boot pack | | | | |
| Larvae 100 30cm x 30cm dressing pack | | | | |
| Larvae 200 | | | | |
| Larvae 200 Boot pack | | | | |
| Larvae 200 30cm x 30cm dressing pack | | | | |
| Optimax 500mg capsules | | | | |
| Primaquine 7.5mg tablets | | | | |
| Seconal Sodium 100mg capsules | | | | |
| Seconal Sodium 50mg capsules | | | | |
| Serdolect 4mg tablets | | | | |
| Serdolect 12mg tablets | | | | |
| Serdolect 16mg tablets | | | | |
| Serdolect 20mg tablets | | | | |
| Sodium Amytal 60mg capsules | | | | |
| Sodium Amytal 200mg capsules | | | | |
| Soneryl 100mg tablets | | | | |
| Talidex 25mg tablets | | | | |
| Tuinal 100mg Pulvules | | | | |
| Tuinal 100mg Pulvules | | | | |
| Zinc Oxide | | | | |
| Jun-20 | Acetone liquid | | | | |
| Borax powder | | | | |
| Boric Acid powder | | | | |
| Peppermint oil liquid | | | | |
| Potassium iodide powder | | | | |
| Rose water liquid | | | | |
| Sulfur precipitated powder | | | | |
| Sulfur sublimed powder | | | | |
| Tartaric acid powder | | | | |
| May-20 | Posaconazole 40mg/ml oral suspension | | | | |
| Apr - 20 | Alprostadil 20microgram powder and solvent for solution for injection cartridges | | | | |
| Alprostadil 40microgram powder and solvent for solution for injection cartridges | | | | |
| Darunavir 800mg tablets | | | | |
| Nutrison 800 Complete Multi Fibre liquid | | | | |
| Mar-20 | Esmya 5mg tablets | | | | |
| Liothyronine 10microgram tablets | | | | |
| Similac Alimentum powder | | | | |
| Ulipristal 5mg tablets | | | | |
| Valcyte 50mg/ml oral solution | | | | |
| Valganciclovir 50mg/ml oral solution sugar free | | | | |
| Feb-20 | Follitropin alfa 75unit powder and solvent for solution for injection vials | | | | |
| Follitropin alfa 450unit powder and solvent for solution for injection vials | | | | |
| Jan-20 | Fortini Compact Multi Fibre liquid x 2 flavours | | | | |
| Nutrini Peptisorb Energy liquid | | | | |
| PaediaSure Compact liquid x 3 flavours | | | | |
| PKU sphere15 oral powder x 3 flavours | | | | |
| SMA Alfamino powder | | | | |

Further checks of over **400** products are underway to determine if they meet the individual drug DND criteria.

**Pharmacy factsheets for Community Pharmacy News (CPN)**

Each month DST produces factsheets with latest information and reminders on various dispensing and supply-related topics for pharmacy teams to refer to. Below is a table of the recent factsheets published in the monthly CPN magazine:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CPN Month** | **Factsheet title** |
| Nov-20 | Dispensing and submission guidance following the suspension of patient signatures on prescriptions – to be published in November CPN |
| Oct-20 | [Red separator submission](https://psnc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Red-Separator-Factsheet.pdf) |
| Sep-20 | [Prescription re-check](https://psnc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Rechecks-Factsheet-002.pdf) |
| Aug-20 | [Exemptions from prescription charges](https://psnc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Prescription-exemptions-factsheet.pdf) |
| Jul-20 | [New prescriber endorsement ‘FS’ for free supply of sexual health treatment](https://psnc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FS-endorsement-factsheet.pdf) |
| Jun-20 | [All you need to know about: Special containers and products requiring reconstitution](https://psnc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Special-containers-factsheet.pdf) |
| May-20 | [C-19 related payments in June/July](https://psnc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/May-2020-CPN.pdf) |
| Apr-20 | [C-19 related payments in April/May](https://psnc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/April-2020-CPN.pdf) |
| Mar-20 | [Dispensing Factsheet: Prescription endorsements](https://psnc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Prescription-endorsements-factsheet.pdf) |
| Feb-20 | [Dispensing and endorsing FP10MDA instalment forms correctly](https://psnc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/FP10-MDA-Factsheet_CPN_0220.pdf) |
| Jan-20 | [Changes to FP10 NHS Prescription forms and EPS Tokens](https://psnc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Changes-to-FP10s-factsheet.pdf) |

**Appendix FCS 11/11/20**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Subject | Statistics |
| Date of meeting | November 2020 |
| Committee/Subcommittee | FunCon |
| Status | Not confidential |
| Overview | Latest statistics for information |
| Proposed action(s) | No action required |
| Author(s) of the paper | PSNC Pharmacy Funding Team |

**Statistics**

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