**Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee**

**Funding and Contract Subcommittee Agenda**

**Wednesday 1st February 2023 at 14.00**

**By Zoom**

**Items are confidential where marked**

**Members:**David Broome (Deputy Chairman), Peter Cattee (Chairman), Jas Heer, Tricia Kennerley, Ghada Beal, Has Modi, Bharat Patel, Prakash Patel, Adrian Price, Anil Sharma

**In attendance:**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 01/02/23)**and matters arising

**REPORTS**

1. Work Plan
	1. Workplan for Pharmacy Funding and Finance teams **(Confidential Appendix FCS 02/02/23)**
2. CPCF negotiations
	1. Independent economic review **(Confidential verbal update)**
	2. Social and economic value of community pharmacy **(Confidential verbal update)**
	3. Dispensing doctor’s funding and distribution – 2022/23 (**Confidential Appendix FCS 03/02/23)**

1. Remuneration and reimbursement
2. CPCF outturn **(Confidential Appendix FCS 04/02/23)**
3. Cat M Jan 2023 **(Confidential Appendix FCS 05/02/23)**
4. Target NIC and Jan 2023 price movements **(Confidential Appendix FCS 06/02/23)**
5. Retained margin update **(Confidential Appendix FCS 07/02/23)**
6. Implementation of £100m write off **(Confidential Appendix 08/02/23)**
7. C-19 cost claims update **(Confidential Appendix FCS 09/02/23)**
8. C-19 antivirals update **(Confidential Appendix FCS 10/02/23)**
9. HRT PPC update **(Confidential Appendix FCS 11/02/23)**
10. Price concessions update **(Appendix FCS 12/02/23)**
11. Reimbursement reforms
	1. Price concessions review **(Confidential Appendix FCS 13/02/23)**
	2. Retrospective top up payments for concession lines **(Confidential Appendix 14/02/23)**
	3. Discount deduction **(Confidential verbal update)**
12. General funding update **(Appendix FCS 15/02/23)**

1. Statistics **(Appendix FCS 16/02/23)**
2. Any other business

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Subject |  Price concessions update |
| Date of meeting |  February 2023 |
| Committee/Subcommittee |  FunCon |
| Status |  Not confidential |
| Overview | Overview of monthly price concessions granted |
| Proposed action(s) | No action required |
| Author(s) of the paper | PSNC Dispensing & Supply Team |

Price concessions update

## January 2023

* As of 23rd January 2023, PSNC applied for **192** price concessions. Further applications may be submitted throughout the month based on reports received by PSNC.
* So far, prices for **108** lines have been agreed and these were published in two updates on the 19th and 20th January 2023. Negotiations are ongoing for all outstanding lines.
* The review of the price concessions system is progressing and meetings with DHSC have been constructive with both sides sharing detailed analysis of their findings.

## December 2022

* PSNC applied for a total of **204** price concessions in December 2022. **A total of 198 price concessions were published - a** [record](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/record-number-of-price-concessions-granted-in-december/) **for the highest number of price concessions granted in a month.**
* DHSC wrote to PSNC on 23rd December 2022with their list of final prices. Prices for 4 outstanding products were agreed later and published on 30th December 2022.
	+ **167** price concessions were agreed between DHSC and PSNC.
	+ **31** products had prices imposed as PSNC was unable to agree to the final prices proposed by DHSC.
	+ **5** products where PSNC and DHSC agreed to no concessionary price.
	+ **1** product had a no concessionary price imposed by DHSC.

**Price concessions for oral antibiotics covered by the Phenoxymethylpenicillin (Pen V) SSPs:**

* PSNC requested price concessions for 16 oral antibiotics covered by the Pen V SSPs.
* DHSC were generous with prices granted for majority of these antibiotics (with prices covering over 90% of reports received by PSNC)
* The prices for the two different Pen V liquid formulations (sugar and sugar free) were equalised because DHSC’s view is that contractors could supply a sugar-free liquid preparation against a prescription for the sugared version without an SSP.
* PSNC also asked DHSC to factor into the concessionary prices, the cost of oral syringes supplied with oral antibiotics
* DHSC replied to confirm that they didnot specifically include the cost of a syringe for the oral antibiotics. However, DHSC said they took into account the changing situation with the antibiotics when setting the concessionary prices in order to set a fair reimbursement price.

## November 2022

* PSNC applied for a total of **160** price concessions in November 2022; DHSC wrote to PSNC on 1st December 2022 with their lists of final prices.

**137** price concessions were agreed between DHSC and PSNC.

* + **20** products had prices imposed as PSNC was unable to agree to the final prices proposed by DHSC.
	+ **2** products where PSNC and DHSC agreed to no concessionary price.
	+ **1** product had a no concessionary price imposed by DHSC.

Price concessions summary

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Subject | General funding update |
| Date of meeting | February 2023 |
| 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 Dispensing & Supply Team  |

General funding update

The following items are included as matters of report:

* Update: Accuracy of product and pricing information held on NHS dm+d
* January 2023 Category M prices announced
* 45 products deleted from Category M in the January 2023 Drug Tariff
* 21 products reclassified as Special Container between November 2022 - February 2023
* 42 products added to the Discount Not Deducted (DND) list between December 2022 - February 2023
* Eight SSPs issued for Pen V (all formulations)
* Updates to other SSPs
* Active and expired SSPs
* Reminder: Completing patient declarations for age exempt patients
* DHSC permits use of antiviral medicines against influenza
* Reminder: Ordering arrangements for Inclisiran (Leqvio®)
* FreeStyle Libre Sensor deleted from Part IX of the January 2023 Drug Tariff
* Market movements with implications for supply
* DST webpage views

Update: Accuracy of product and pricing information held on NHS dm+d

PSNC remains concerned about accuracy of product and pricing information held on NHS dictionary of medicines and devices (dm+d). Over the past few months, PSNC’s Dispensing and Supply team (DST) opportunistically identified and raised with NHSBSA and DHSC, over **360** examples of issues with information held in dm+d covering 33 specific areas of concern. **333** of the issues have now been resolved and PSNC is still awaiting an update on **30** of the outstanding issues which are currently being investigated by the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA).

**Table of issues identified and submitted to Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHSBSA**

*Please note some issues identified cover more than one of the issue types listed below.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Issue type** | **Number of issues identified** | **Number of issues submitted to DHSC and NHSBSA** | **Number of issues resolved by NHSBSA** |
| **Pricing issues** | 102 | 102 | 96 |
| **dm+d editorial committee issues** | 5 | 5 | See dm+d Content Committee Submissions table below |
| **Pharmacy team issue** | 1 | N/A | N/A |
| **Authoring Issues** | 256 | 256 | 237 |
| **Total** | 364 | 363 | 333 |

PSNC is seeking retrospective payment adjustments for all products identified with pricing discrepancies i.e. where the NHS list prices held on dm+d do not correspond to the manufacturer’s updated list prices.

PSNC’s Dispensing and Supply team has also made direct representations to the dm+d Content Committee to investigate potential patient safety concerns linked to dm+d authoring. The table below provides a summary of the issues raised with the dm+d Content Committee.

**dm+d Content Committee Submissions**

| **Dm+d issue** | **Patient safety risk** | **PSNC position** | **Dm+d Content Committee response and status** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Number of different specials strengths listed on dm+d for example Phenobarbital oral suspension is listed with 63 individual special strengths on dm+d.
 | Listing of several different strengths of specials on dm+d has led to prescribing of multiple strengths of liquid specials in practice which can lead to dosing errors. | Standardisation in the prescribed concentrations of specials listed on dm+d may help to reduce the risk of errors being made in the doses given to patients and prevent hospitalisation from accidental under and overdoses. | Specials are added to dm+d primarily based on a prescribing/dispensing need for use by a patient. The Content Committee does not believe it is the role of dm+d to act as a formulary for approved unlicensed medicines but its role is to be a dictionary of specials that are available and required for use by patients. The Content Committee does, however, support an ongoing investigation into this Issue.The Committee agreed that where a number of strengths are listed on dm+d, it may be pragmatic to discontinue some concepts that do not appear to have been used for a defined period of time.**Status: Ongoing** |
| 1. Modified release products with different release rates listed under a single generic description (VMP); for example, Diltiazem 120mg modified-release capsules are available as both 12-hourly and 24-hourly preparations.
 | Generic prescribing of modified release drugs available as 12-hourly and 24-hourly release preparations potentially increases the risk of the wrong product being dispensed to a patient as it would not always be apparent to the pharmacist which product should be supplied if the directions are unclear for example ‘As directed’. | There may be significant patient safety concerns if both the 12-hour and 24-hour release products are grouped under the same VMP for example, Diltiazem, Nifedipine and Tramadol. Changes to dm+d naming convention would help prevent any dispensing errors for example by renaming the VMP to Diltiazem 120mg modified release (12-hourly) capsules and Diltiazem 120mg modified release (24-hourly) capsules. | The Content Committee is aware that there is no mandate for dm+d terms to be implemented by users. The view is that this topic encroaches into the field of clinical decision support which is not supported by the dm+d. Decision support is provided by third party suppliers of prescribing and dispensing system. The dm+d Content Committee concluded that dm+d will therefore not be adopting a change in the dm+d naming convention sought.**Status: TBC** |
| 1. Mismatches between VMP and AMP strengths displayed on dm+d. For example:VMP: Ibuprofen sodium dihydrate **200mg** tablets; AMP: *Nurofen Express* ***256mg*** *tablets (Reckitt Benckiser Healthcare (UK) Ltd)*A similar issue arises with VMP Ibuprofen lysine 200mg tablets which has linking AMPs that refer to a strength of 342mg i.e. *Feminax Express 342mg tablets (Bayer Plc).*
 | Differences in the strengths between VMP and linking AMP descriptions in dm+d may result in dispensing/picking errors. Dispensers may not identify and supply the required product if the strength labelled on the product packaging does not correspond to the strength indicated on the prescription. | If the strengths described in the VMP, AMP and on product packaging align, the dispenser would be able to correctly identify the product required to be dispensed.  | For products with mismatches between VMP and AMP names, the Content Committee agreed to align the expression of strengths in the VMP and AMP names. dm+d will therefore be re-authored to represent the strength of the salt in the VMP description.Changes will be made in the Drug Tariff and relevant updates will be communicated to registered recipients of the dm+d files in the weekly TRUD communication release notes when the dm+d authors are ready to proceed.**Status: Complete** |
| 1. Several medicines listed on dm+d are required / recommended to be prescribed by brand name (AMP level) are missing the ‘*Caution-AMP level prescribing advised*’ indicator. Examples of products which do not have this indicator include: **Mycophenolate** - The Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website states *‘Switching between a brand and generic formulation, or between generic formulations, should be initiated only by a transplant specialist.’***Tacrolimus** - In 2014 the MHRA issued [guidance](https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/oral-tacrolimus-products-prescribe-and-dispense-by-brand-name-only-to-minimise-the-risk-of-inadvertent-switching-between-products-which-has-been-associated-with-reports-of-toxicity-and-graft-rejection) directing that oral tacrolimus products should be prescribed and dispensed by brand name only, to minimise the risk of inadvertent switching between products.
 | If a medicine is required to be prescribed by brand name but is prescribed generically, there is a risk of patients being inadvertently switched between different brands. The risk of harm will vary depending on the medicine. For example, with Tacrolimus and Mycophenolate there is a risk of toxicity and graft rejection.  | Applying the ‘*Caution-AMP level prescribing advised*’ indicator to all relevant medicines will support their prescribing by brand name to remain in line with national guidance issued by MHRA, BNF or SPS. Brand name prescribing of these medicines will help to maintain treatment continuity and stability for patients and minimise the risk of patient safety incidents/harm that could arise if patients are inadvertently switched between different brands when supplies are made against generically written prescriptions. | The NHS dm+d Editorial Policy states:*“The value ‘Caution – AMP level prescribing advised’ will be applied to licensed medicinal products in the following circumstances:**'for VMPs representing AMPs that are licensed medicinal products where there may be issues with interchangeability between innovator and generic products, or where continuity of supply is desirable for clinical reasons.”***Status: Awaiting response from Content Committee** |
| 1. Two or more brands of a medicine with different licensing indications listed under a single generic description (VMP). For example, adult and paediatric Hepatitis A vaccines are both listed under a single generic description name ‘Hepatitis A vaccine (inactivated, adsorbed) suspension for injection 0.5ml pre-filled syringes’Example 2: Under VMP name for Tolvaptan 30mg tablets sits two branded products (AMPs) that have different therapeutic indications: Jinarc 30mg tablets and Samsca 30mg tablets both have different indications.
 | If different brands of a medicine have different licensing indications, the wrong product may inadvertently be dispensed if the medicine is prescribed generically i.e may lead to inadvertent off-label dispensing if the brand supplied is not for the intended therapeutic indication.  | Risk of off-label dispensing can be minimised by supporting brand name prescribing of these medicines by applying the ‘*Caution-AMP level prescribing advised*’ indicator.  | The decision of the dm+d Content Committee was that dm+d is not intended as a decision support tool and that this is out of scope for dm+d.NHSBSA and NHSDigital colleagues will discuss further, whether the VMP Prescribing Status might be updated in certain scenarios to ‘Caution – AMP level prescribing advised’.**Status: Ongoing** |

January 2023 Category M prices announced

The Drug Tariff Category M pricelist for January 2023 was published on the [**NHSBSA website**](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/drug-tariff/drug-tariff-part-viii).

The January Category M prices reflected an increase in reimbursement levels of approximately £28m per quarter. This is the net effect of 2 elements:

* A significant adjustment in Category M prices in recognition of the price rises that have been seen in the market over the last several months
* A minor margin adjustment, agreed by PSNC based on our latest analysis of margin delivery and on current projections for 2022/23

Also, to note is that the uplift to prices introduced in the December 2022 Category M price list, as part of the agreed write-off of £100m of excess margin negotiated by PSNC as part of the [**CPCF arrangements for 2022/23 and 2023/24**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-announcement-cpcf-arrangements-for-2022-23-and-2023-24-agreed/), remains in place.

45 products deleted from Category M in the January 2023 Drug Tariff

Following representations made by the Dispensing and Supply Team, DHSC agreed to delete 45 products from Category M. This is because these products no longer met the minimum NIC and volume requirements to remain in Category M i.e. the products satisfied the agreed Category M exit criteria. Of the 45 products deleted from Category M:

* 42 products moved to Category A
* 2 products moved to Category C
* 1 product was discontinued and deleted from the Drug Tariff
* 33 products saw a price increase, 10 products saw a price decrease and price for 1 product was unchanged

Further information on monthly Drug Tariff changes can be found in PSNC’s [Drug Tariff Watch.](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-and-supply/dispensing-process/drug-tariff-resources/drug-tariff-watch/)

21 products reclassified as Special Container between November 2022 - February 2023

Following representations from PSNC, DHSC re-determined the special container status of the following **21** products between November 2022 and February 2023:

| **Drug name (Manufacturer)** | **Pack size** | **Special container** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Co-beneldopa 12.5mg/50mg capsules (Teva UK Ltd) | 100 | Complete pack |
| Estradiol 10microgram pessaries (Advanz Pharma) | 24 | Complete pack |
| Femodene ED tablets (Bayer Plc) | 84 tablet 3 x (21 tablets + 7 tablets) | Sub-pack of 28 |
| Foodlink Complete Compact Starter Pack sachets (Nualtra Ltd) | 5 sachet 1 x (5 x 57g sachets) | Complete pack |
| Fortisip Compact Starter Pack liquid (Nualtra Ltd) | 750 ml (6 x 125ml bottles) | Complete pack |
| Intrarosa 6.5mg pessaries (Theramex HQ UK Ltd) | 28 pessary 4 x 7 pessaries | Complete pack |
| Logynon ED tablets (Bayer Plc) | 84 tablet 3 x (6tabs+5tabs+10tabs+7tabs) | Sub-pack of 28 |
| Logynon tablets (Bayer Plc) | 63 tablet 3 x (6 tabs + 5 tabs + 10 tabs) | Sub-pack of 21 |
| Madopar® 100mg/25mg capsules (Roche Products Ltd) | 100 | Complete pack |
| Madopar® 100mg/25mg dispersible tablets (Roche Products Ltd) | 100 | Complete pack |
| Madopar® 200mg/50mg capsules (Roche Products Ltd) | 100 | Complete pack |
| Madopar® 50mg/12.5mg capsules (Roche Products Ltd) | 100 | Complete pack |
| Madopar® 50mg/12.5mg dispersible tablets (Roche Products Ltd) | 100 | Complete pack |
| Madopar® CR capsules (Roche Products Ltd) | 100 | Complete pack |
| Microgynon 30 ED tablets (Bayer Plc) | 84 tablet 3 x (21 tablets + 7 tablets) | Sub-pack of 28 |
| Pabrinex Intramuscular High Potency solution for injection 5ml and 2ml ampoules | 20 ampoules | Complete pack |
| Pabrinex Intravenous High Potency solution for injection 5ml and 5ml ampoules | 12 ampoules | Complete pack |
| Qlaira tablets (Bayer Plc) | 84 tablet 3 x (2 + 2 + 2 + 17 + 5 tabs) | Sub-pack of 28 |
| Synphase tablets (Pfizer Ltd) | 21 tablet 1 x (7 tabs + 9 tabs + 5 tabs) | Complete pack |
| TriRegol tablets (Consilient Health Ltd) | 63 tablet 3 x (6tabs + 5tabs + 10tabs) | Sub-pack of 21 |
| Vagirux 10microgram vaginal tablets (Gedeon Richter (UK) Ltd) | 24 | Complete pack |

**PSNC worked jointly with Roche UK to secure special container status for Madopar® preparations. Following the reclassification of all Madopar preparations as special containers, Roche UK issued the following statement:** “Over the last few years pharmacists had been raising the challenges they were facing when dispensing Madopar according to its Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC). Consequently, we proactively approached the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) to collaborate on a solution that would rectify the situation. We are delighted for Pharmacies and the patients they serve that the NHS Business Services Authority has awarded Madopar 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 currently in discussion with DHSC or under review with NHSBSA** | **Number of products agreed by DHSC as meeting criteria** |
| **Effervescent or hygroscopic\*** | 269 | 230 | 187 | 43 |
| **Viscous external preparations\*** | 895 | 160 | 144 | 16 |
| **Packaged in a container from which it is not practicable to dispense exact quantity\*** | 3029 | 505 | 406 | 99 |
| **Total** | **4,193** | **895** | **737** | **158** |

*\*Please note some products may have been applied for under more than one criteria*

Since August 2019, PSNC’s Dispensing & Supply team has reviewed over **4,000** products against Drug Tariff 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 **895** 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 the dm+d. See our page on ‘[*Notice of changes to special container status of products’*](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-supply/dispensing-a-prescription/special-containers/special-containers-notice-of-change-to-product-special-container-status/).

PSNC submitted a paper to DHSC setting out its concerns relating to the current processes for determining the special container status of products and included proposals to facilitate more accurate assessment of products against the relevant Drug Tariff criteria.

42 products added to the Discount Not Deducted (DND) list between December 2022 - February 2023

Following applications made by PSNC to the DHSC and the NHSBSA, a further **42 new products** were added to the ‘Drugs for which Discount is Not Deducted’ (DND) list in the three months between December 2022 and February 2023. Over the past 2 years, nearly **600 products** have been granted DND status following checks made by PSNC.

**26 products** to be added to DND list in the February 2023 Drug Tariff:

* Acarizax 12 SQ-HDM oral lyophilisates
* Co-danthramer 75mg/1000mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free
* Desizon 20mg/ml oral suspension
* Ethosuximide 250mg/5ml oral solution
* Ferriprox 100mg/ml oral solution
* Isentress 600mg tablets
* Kyleena 19.5mg intrauterine device
* Levocarnitine 1.5g/5ml oral solution paediatric sugar free
* Mexiletine hydrochloride 200mg (Mexiletine 167mg) capsules
* Nortriptyline 10mg/5ml oral solution sugar free
* Nortriptyline 25mg/5ml oral solution sugar free
* Plenadren 20mg modified-release tablets
* Risedronate sodium 30mg tablets
* Slenyto 1mg modified-release tablets
* Sodium bicarbonate 8.4% (1mmol/ml) solution for injection 100ml bottles
* Sodium chloride 0.9% solution for injection 50ml vials
* Sodium chloride 30% solution for infusion 50ml vials
* Sodium cromoglicate 100mg/5ml oral solution 5ml unit dose ampoules sugar free
* Tolcapone 100mg tablets
* Trevicta 175mg/0.875ml prolonged-release suspension for injection pre-filled syringes
* Trevicta 263mg/1.315ml prolonged-release suspension for injection pre-filled syringes
* Trevicta 350mg/1.75ml prolonged-release suspension for injection pre-filled syringes
* Trevicta 525mg/2.625ml prolonged-release suspension for injection pre-filled syringes
* Trifluoperazine 5mg tablets
* Vancomycin 1g powder for solution for infusion vials
* Zypadhera 210mg powder and solvent for suspension for injection vials

**11 products** were added to DND list in the January 2023 Drug Tariff:

* Fidaxomicin 40mg/ml oral suspension sugar free
* Fresubin Energy Fibre tube feed liquid unflavoured
* Fresubin Energy tube feed liquid unflavoured
* Infatrini tube feed liquid
* Metolazone 5mg tablets
* Nepro HP tube feed liquid vanilla
* PaediaSure Peptide tube feed liquid
* PaediaSure Plus fibre tube feed liquid vanilla
* Peptamen tube feed liquid unflavoured
* Survimed OPD tube feed liquid
* Vital 1.5kcal tube feed liquid vanilla

**5 products** were added to DND list in the December 2022 Drug Tariff:

* Dificlir 40mg/ml oral suspension
* Lenalidomide 15mg capsules
* Milrinone 10mg/10ml solution for infusion ampoules
* Revlimid 15mg capsules
* Xaqua 5mg tablets

For a list of all the monthly changes to the DND status of products please see the following page [**Notice of changes to discount not deducted (DND) status of products**](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-supply/endorsement/discount-deduction/notice-of-changes-to-discount-not-deducted-dnd-status-of-products/).

Eight SSPs issued for Pen V (all formulations)

**In December 2022, DHSC issued a eight new Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) for all oral Phenoxymethylpenicillin (Pen V) preparations.**

**To help mitigate the ongoing supply disruptions affecting the availability of Pen V preparations, these SSPs authorised by the Secretary of State, allow community pharmacists to either supply a different Pen V formulation or a specified alternative oral antibiotic treatment against a prescription for Pen V.** The protocols aim to help reduce the number of patients needing to return to their prescriber for a replacement prescription. For each SSP, DHSC included specific patient counselling points which must be taken into account when deciding whether supply in accordance with an SSP is suitable for a patient. Pharmacy teams were advised to **read the documentation in full for all SSPs published on the** [**NHSBSA’s website**](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps).

PSNC has issued the following resources on how SSPs work and how contractors should claim for SSPs:

* [PSNC Briefing 023/19: Serious Shortage Protocols – A guide for community pharmacy teams](https://psnc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/PSNC-Briefing-023.19-Serious-Shortage-Protocols-v3.0-.pdf)
* [PSNC Briefing 011/21: Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) updated endorsing guidance](https://psnc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/PSNC-Briefing-011.21-Serious-Shortage-Protocols-SSPs-updated-endorsing-guidance-updated-11.21-4.pdf)
* [Points to consider when using SSPs for Penicillin V](https://psnc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Points-to-consider-when-using-SSPs-for-Penicillin-V-.docx)
* [Top tips to claim for and reconcile SSP payments](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/top-tips-for-claiming-and-reconciling-of-payments-for-ssps/)

Recognising the additional pressure that using SSPs puts on pharmacy teams, PSNC also published some resources. But pharmacists and contractors should ensure they were familiar with the SSPs and specific endorsement guidance for each SSP.

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) has also produced an [**illustration**](https://www.rpharms.com/publications/pharmacy-alerts/details/Further-5-Serious-Shortage-Protocols-SSPs-phenoxymethylpenicillin-products-to-enable-the-supply-of-alternative-antibiotics) (with input from PSNC) to assist pharmacists in their decision-making on the correct SSPs to use.

### All current Pen V SSPs

| **SSP** | **SSP endorsement guidance** | **SSP Expiry** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [**SSP040** Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution sugar free](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-12/SSP040%20Phenoxymethylpenicillin%20125mg-5ml%20oral%20solution%20sugar%20free%2014122022.pdf)(issued 15/12/2022) | [SSP040 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-12/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP040%20Penicillin%20125mg-5ml%20oral%20soln%20SF.pdf) | 31 January 2023 |
| [**SSP041** Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution sugar free](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-12/SSP041%20Phenoxymethylpenicillin%20250mg-5ml%20oral%20solution%20sugar%20free%2014122022.pdf)(issued 15/12/2022) | [SSP041 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-12/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP041%20Penicillin%20250mg-5ml%20oral%20soln%20SF.pdf) | 31 January 2023 |
| [**SSP042** Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-12/SSP042%20Phenoxymethylpenicillin%20250mg-5ml%20oral%20solution%2014122022_4.pdf)(issued 15/12/2022) | [SSP042 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-12/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP042%20Penicillin%20250mg-5ml%20oral%20soln.pdf) | 31 January 2023 |
| [**SSP043** Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-12/SSP043%20Phenoxymethylpenicillin%20125mg-5ml%20oral%20solution%20161222%20%20v9.pdf)(issued 16/12/2022) | [SSP043 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-12/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP043%20Penicillin%20125mg-5ml%20oral%20soln.pdf) | 31 January 2023 |
| [**SSP044** Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution sugar free](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-12/SSP044%20Phenoxymethylpenicillin%20125mg-5ml%20oral%20solution%20SF%20161222%20v9.pdf)(issued 16/12/2022) | [SSP044 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-12/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP044%20Penicillin%20125mg-5ml%20oral%20soln%20SF.pdf) | 31 January 2023 |
| [**SSP045** Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-12/SSP045%20Phenoxymethylpenicillin%20250mg-5ml%20oral%20solution%20161222%20v9.pdf)(issued 16/12/2022) | [SSP045 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-12/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP045%20Penicillin%20250mg-5ml%20oral%20soln.pdf) | 31 January 2023 |
| [**SSP046** Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution sugar free](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-12/SSP046%20Phenoxymethylpenicillin%20250mg-5ml%20oral%20solution%20SF%20161222%20v9.pdf)(issued 16/12/2022) | [SSP046 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-12/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP046%20Penicillin%20250mg-5ml%20oral%20soln%20SF.pdf) | 31 January 2023 |
| [**SSP047** Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg tablets](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-12/SSP047%20Phenoxymethylpenicillin%20250mg%20tablets%20161222%20v9.pdf)(issued 16/12/2022) | [SSP047 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-12/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP047%20Penicillin%20250mg%20tabs.pdf) | 31 January 2023 |

Note: Three Pen V SSPs, ([**SSP043 – SSP047**](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps)**)** were amended on 23 December 2022 to include the following oral Azithromycin preparations as an alternative antibiotic to Pen V:

* Azithromycin 200mg/5ml oral suspension
* Azithromycin 250mg tablets
* Azithromycin 500mg tablets
* Azithromycin 250mg capsules

Updates to other SSPs

Below are a number of recent changes made to different SSPs. Pharmacists should ensure they are looking at the latest version of the SSP and endorsement guidance on the [**NHSBSA website**](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps).

**Extended SSPs**

* [**SSP036**](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) for **Estraderm MX*®* 100mcg patches**was extended to **27 January 2023.** It was previously to expire on 13 January 2023. SSP036 allows pharmacists to supply **Evorel*®* 100mcg patches instead of Estraderm MX*®* 100mcg patches.**
* [**SSP038**](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps)for **Lipitor® 20mg chewable tablets**was extended to **27 January 2023**. It was previously set to expire on 23rd December 2022. SSP032 allows pharmacists to supply **Atorvastatin 20mg tablets OR Atorvastatin 20mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free instead of Lipitor® 20mg chewable tablets.**
* [**SSP039**](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps)for **Estraderm MX® 75mcg patches** was extended to **3 February 2023**. It was previously set to expire on 13 January 2022. SSP039 allows pharmacists to supply **Evorel*®* 75mcg patches instead of Estraderm MX*®* 75mcg patches.**

**Reactivated SSPs**

* [**SSP032**](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) for Lipitor® 10mg chewable tabletswas reactivated and is currently set to expire on **3 February 2023**. SSP032 allows pharmacists to supply **Atorvastatin 10mg tablets OR Atorvastatin 20mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free instead of Lipitor® 10mg chewable tablets.**

**Expired SSPs**

* [**SSP026 – SSP028**](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) for **Lenzetto® 1.53mg/dose transdermal spray** expired on **13 January 2023.**

Active and expired SSPs

**Active SSPs**

| **SSP** | **Expiry Date** | **Supporting Information** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [SSP005: Fluoxetine 10mg tablets](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 10 February 2023 | [SSP005 guide](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-supply/psnc-briefings-dispensing-and-supply/psnc-briefing-015-20-serious-shortage-protocols-ssps-ssp05-fluoxetine-10mg-tablets/) |
| [SSP029 Sandrena®  0.5mg and 1mg gel sachets - restriction](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 27 January 2023 | [SSP029 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-05/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP029%20Sandrena%20restriction%2023052022.pdf) |
| [SSP030 Sandrena®  0.5mg and 1mg gel sachets -  substitution](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps)  | 27 January 2023 | [SSP030 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-05/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP030%20Sandrena%20substitution%2023052022.pdf) |
| [SSP031 Sandrena® 0.5mg and 1mg gel sachets -  substitution and restriction](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 27 January 2023 | [SSP031 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-05/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP031%20Sandrena%20substitution%20and%20restriction%2023052022.pdf) |
| [SSP032 Lipitor® 10mg chewable tablets](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 3 February 2023 | [SSP032 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-05/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP032%20Atorvastatin%20Chewable%2031052022.pdf) |
| [SSP036 Estraderm MX® 100mcg patches](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 27 January 2023 | [SSP036 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-09/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP036%20Estraderm%20MX%20100%2007092022.pdf) |
| [SSP038 Estraderm MX® 75mcg patches](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 27 January 2023 | [SSP038 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-11/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP038%20Estraderm%20MX%2075%2015112022.pdf) |
| [SSP039 Lipitor® 20mg chewable tablets](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 3 February 2023 | [SSP039 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-11/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP039%20Atorvastatin%2020mg%20Chewable%2022112022.pdf) |
| [SSP040 Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution sugar free](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 31 January 2023 | [SSP040 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-12/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP040%20Penicillin%20125mg-5ml%20oral%20soln%20SF.pdf) |
| [SSP041 Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution sugar free](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 31 January 2023 | [SSP041 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-12/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP041%20Penicillin%20250mg-5ml%20oral%20soln%20SF.pdf) |
| [SSP042 Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 31 January 2023 | [SSP042 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-12/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP042%20Penicillin%20250mg-5ml%20oral%20soln.pdf) |
| [SSP043 Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 31 January 2023 | [SSP043 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-12/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP043%20Penicillin%20125mg-5ml%20oral%20soln.pdf) |
| [SSP044 Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution sugar free](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 31 January 2023 | [SSP044 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-12/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP044%20Penicillin%20125mg-5ml%20oral%20soln%20SF.pdf) |
| [SSP045 Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 31 January 2023 | [SSP045 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-12/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP045%20Penicillin%20250mg-5ml%20oral%20soln.pdf) |
| [SSP046 Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution sugar free](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 31 January 2023 | [SSP046 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-12/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP046%20Penicillin%20250mg-5ml%20oral%20soln%20SF.pdf) |
| [SSP047 Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg tablets](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 31 January 2023 | [SSP047 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-12/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP047%20Penicillin%20250mg%20tabs.pdf) |

**Expired SSPs (2022)**

| **SSP** | **Date expired** | **Supporting Information** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [SSP026 Lenzetto® 1.53mg/dose transdermal spray -  restriction](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps)  | 13 January 2023 | [SSP026 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-05/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP026%20Lenzetto%20restriction%2023052022.pdf) |
| [SSP027 Lenzetto® 1.53mg/dose transdermal spray -  substitution](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 13 January 2023 | [SSP027 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-05/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP027%20Lenzetto%20substitution%2023052022.pdf) |
| [SSP028 Lenzetto® 1.53mg/dose transdermal spray - substitution and restriction](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 13 January 2023 | [SSP028 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-05/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP028%20Lenzetto%20substitution%20and%20restriction%2023052022.pdf) |
| [SSP019 Oestrogel® Pump-Pack 0.06% gel - restriction](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 30 November 2022 | [SSP019 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-04/Supporting%20endorsement%20guidance%20Oestrogel%20.pdf) |
| [SSP020 Ovestin® 1mg cream - restriction](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 30 November 2022 | [SSP020 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-04/Supporting%20endorsement%20guidance%20Ovestin.pdf) |
| [SSP022 Oestrogel® Pump-Pack 0.06% gel (750microgram per actuation) - substitution](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 30 November 2022 | [SSP022 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-05/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP022%20Oestrogel%20substitution%2023052022.pdf) |
| [SSP023 Oestrogel® Pump-Pack 0.06% gel (750microgram per actuation) - substitution and restriction](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 30 November 2022 | [SSP023 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-05/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP023%20Oestrogel%20substitution%20and%20restriction%2023052022.pdf) |
| [SSP024 Ovestin® 1mg cream - substitution](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 30 November 2022 | [SSP024 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-07/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP024%20Ovestin%20substitution%2028072022.pdf) |
| [SSP025 Ovestin® 1mg cream - substitution and restriction](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 30 November 2022 | [SSP025 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-07/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP025%20Ovestin%20substitution%20and%20restriction%2028072022.pdf) |
| [SSP037 Estraderm MX® 50mcg patches](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 23 November 2022 | [SSP037 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-11/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP037%20Estraderm%20MX%2050%2015112022.pdf) |
| SSP036: Estraderm MX® 100mcg patches | 14 October 2022 | [SSP036 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-09/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP036%20Estraderm%20MX%20100%2007092022.pdf) |
| [SSP035: Estraderm MX® 25mcg patches](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 14 October 2022 | [SSP035 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-09/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP035%20Estraderm%20MX%2025%2007092022.pdf) |
| [SSP034 Combisal®125mcg/25mcg inhalers](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 7 October 2022 | [SSP034 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-07/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP034%20Combisal%2028072022%20FINAL.pdf) |
| [SSP032 Lipitor® 10mg chewable tablets](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 9 September 2022 | [SSP032 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-05/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP032%20Atorvastatin%20Chewable%2031052022.pdf) |
| [SSP033 Paracetamol 120mg suppositories](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 26 August 2022 | [SSP033 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-05/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP033%20Paracetamol%20120mg%20suppositories%2031052022.pdf) |
| [SSP021 Premique® low dose 0.3mg/1.5mg modified-release tablets - restriction](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 29 July 2022 | [SSP021 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-04/Supporting%20endorsement%20guidance%20Premique%20low%20dose%20tablets.pdf) |
| [SSP017: Lipitor® 20mg chewable tablets](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 5 April 2022 | [SSP017 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-02/Supporting%20endorsement%20guidance%20SSP017%20atorvastatin%2020mg%20chewable%20tablets%2014022022.pdf) |
| [SSP014: Salazopyrin® EN-Tabs 500mg](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 1 April 2022 | [SSP014 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-02/SSP014%20Reactivated%20Supporting%20endorsement%20guidance%20Salazopyrin%20EN-Tabs%20500mg.pdf) |
| [SSP018: Salazopyrin® 500mg tablets](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 25 March 2022 | [SSP018 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-03/Supporting%20endorsement%20guidance%20Salazopyrin%20500mg%20tablets%2010032022.pdf) |
| [SSP016: Lipitor® 10mg chewable tablets](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 18 March 2022 | [SSP016 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-02/Supporting%20endorsement%20guidance%20SSP016%20atorvastatin%2010mg%20chewable%20tablets%2014022022.pdf) |
| [SSP015: Paracetamol 120mg & 240mg suppositories](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 4 March 2022 | [SSP015 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-01/SSP015%20endorsement%20guidance%20250122_1.pdf) |
| [SSP013: Lipitor® 20mg chewable tablets](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 12th January 2022 | [SSP013 guide](https://psnc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/PSNC-Briefing-048.21-Serious-Shortage-Protocols-SSPs-SSP013-Atorvastatin-20mg-chewable-tablets.pdf) |

Further information on SSPs can be found on PSNC’s [Live SSPs](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-supply/supply-chain/live-ssps/) webpage

Reminder: Completing patient declarations for age exempt patients

PSNC’s Pricing Audit Team noted an increase in unsigned FP10 patient declarations for patients who are age exempt where the date of birth is handwritten. **Pharmacy teams were reminded that where the date of birth is handwritten by the prescriber on a FP10 form, the patient declaration on the reverse of the prescription MUST be completed in full, i.e. exemption box clearly marked with a patient signature in the signature box.**

Patients over 60 years or under 16 years do not need to provide any proof of age or make a declaration on the reverse of the FP10 form if their date of birth is printed on the front of the form.

In EPS, pharmacy staff must mark every electronic prescription to indicate whether a prescription charge was levied, and where relevant indicate the prescription charge exemption category and whether evidence of exemption was seen.

**The Pricing Authority base payment solely on information contained in the electronic prescription message, therefore it is essential that prescription charge exemption information is recorded accurately in the electronic message to ensure correct payment.**

Pharmacy teams must ensure that exemption and paid declarations on paper prescriptions and tokens are completed in full and forms placed in the correct groups (see [**Prescription sorting requirements**](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-and-supply/prescription-processing/prescription-submission/prescription-submission-requirements/)) to avoid prescriptions being switched between chargeable and exempt groups.

For details of eligible reasons for exemption from NHS prescription charges see our page [**Exemptions from the prescription charge**](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-and-supply/prescription-processing/receiving-a-prescription/patient-charges/exemptions/)

|  |
| --- |
| TOP TIPS: How to prevent prescriptions from being switched |
| * Check the reverse of every exempt prescription (ideally at the time of handing over the medication to the patient) ensuring that:
	1. the amount levied has been entered in the ‘**if you paid**’ section, or
	2. an **exemption box has been clearly marked** (for example tick or cross)
	3. there is a signature in the **signature box**of the declaration (this is especially important when a patient is signing multiple prescriptions at a time)
* Please note: a pharmacy stamp is not accepted as a signature in a declaration of exemption. If a prescription is submitted without a valid signature in part 3, it could be switched.
* Ensure that all prescriptions are filed correctly in the paid or exempt sections at the end of every day.
* If possible, double check the exempt prescriptions for misfiled paid prescriptions before submission at the end of the month.
* You do not need to use a particular coloured pen to complete exemption declarations; this has no impact on whether an item is switched.

Prescription switching statistics can be found on page 2 of your FP34 Schedule of Payments. It details the number of switches made by the Pricing Authority and the reasons why. It is important to monitor this closely, for example to ensure that the Pharmacy Team are following prescription receipt SOPs and ensuring exemption declarations are completed correctly, where required. |

For more information on prescription switching see our page [**here**](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-and-supply/prescription-processing/payment-accuracy/switching/).

DHSC permits use of antiviral medicines against influenza

DHSC via its Central Alerting System (CAS), published a letter on 24 November 2022 advising that due to increasing flu levels in the community, Prescribers working in primary care may prescribe, and **community pharmacists may now supply antiviral medicines (oseltamivir and zanamivir)** for the prophylaxis and treatment of influenza at NHS expense. This is in accordance with NICE guidance, and Schedule 2 to the National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts (Prescription of drugs etc) Regulations 2004), commonly known as the Grey List or Selected List Scheme (SLS).

Prescribers may prescribe for patients in clinical at-risk groups as well as those who are at risk of severe illness and/or complications from flu if not treated, in accordance with National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidance and the Selected List Scheme (SLS) in Part XVIIIB of the England and Wales Drug Tariff.

Community pharmacy contractors who receive FP10 NHS prescriptions, written generically or by brand, for oseltamivir (Tamiflu) or zanamivir (Relenza), the antivirals included in the SLS list, are therefore reminded that prescriptions for these products must be endorsed SLS by the prescriber. If the SLS endorsement is missing, the prescription should not be dispensed and will not be passed for payment by NHS Prescription Services. Pharmacy staff cannot make the SLS endorsement themselves.

Click [**here**](https://www.cas.mhra.gov.uk/ViewAndAcknowledgment/viewAlert.aspx?AlertID=103217) to view the CAS alert

Reminder: Ordering arrangements for Inclisiran (Leqvio®)

Contractors were reminded that Inclisiran (Leqvio®) is available to order from AAH UK at a nominal charge of £45 per pack, as agreed within the commercial agreement between Novartis and NHS England for supply against NHS prescriptions only.  AAH UK was awarded the tender for supply of Inclisiran (Leqvio®) to primary care in England under a Solus distribution arrangement.

AAH UK updated its ordering systems to make it clear that their stock of Inclisiran (Leqvio®) is for NHS supplies only. Stock for **private prescriptions** (at the full list price) can be obtained by contacting Novartis Customer Care directly on **08457 419 442** or via e-mail **commercial.team@novartis.com**

FreeStyle Libre Sensor deleted from Part IX of the January 2023 Drug Tariff

**Pharmacy contractors should note that any NHS prescriptions for the original FreeStyle** **Libre Sensors submitted for payment after the end of December 2022 will not be passed for payment.**  This is because only devices listed in the Appliances section in Part IX (Parts IXA, IXB and IXC) of the Drug Tariff are allowed on NHS prescriptions.

Abbott Laboratories Ltd took the decision to discontinue the original FreeStyle Libre Sensors in the UK by 31st December 2022.  This means that the original sensors were deleted from Part IXA of the Drug Tariff from January 2023. [**A three-month notice of its deletion**](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-and-supply/dispensing-process/dispensing-a-prescription/appliances/drug-tariff-appliance-watch-notice-of-deletion/) was given in the October 2022 Drug Tariff. This discontinuation did not impact FreeStyle Libre 2 or FreeStyle Libre 3 sensor.

Contractors were advised to:

* Only order stock of FreeStyle Libre sensors to fulfil prescriptions up to end of December 2022;
* Inform patients currently using FreeStyle Libre sensors of the discontinuation and direct them to contact their GP who may change their prescription to an alternative monitoring device for example, FreeStyle Libre 2 sensors.
* Submit any outstanding EPS Claim Notifications (CNs) no later than the 5th January 2023. For EPS prescriptions, contractors should be mindful of the [**EPS 5-day window**](https://psnc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Claiming-for-EPS-prescriptions-on-time-factsheet-1.pdf).
* Submit any paper prescriptions for FreeStyle Libre sensors to the NHSBSA no later than the 5th January 2023.

PSNC has produced a page which [**notice of deletion of appliances**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=53bb1ac0e2&e=b3c36abde4) from Part IX is also very important to note as prescriptions for any devices no longer listed in the Drug Tariff will be disallowed by the NHSBSA.

Market movements with implications for supply

The following **16** supply disruption alerts and medicine supply notifications (issued by DHSC between 25 November 2022 and 23 January 2023 were published on the PSNC’s website by the Dispensing & Supply team to assist pharmacy teams:

| **Date** | **Drug name** |
| --- | --- |
| 23 January 2023 | [Senokot® syrup and Senokot® 12 Years Plus syrup (both containing 7.5mg/5ml sennosides)](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-senokot-syrup-and-senokot-12-years-plus-syrup-both-containing-7-5mg-5ml-sennosides/) |
| 17 January 2023 | [Vigabatrin (Sabril®) 500mg tablets](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-vigabatrin-sabril-500mg-tablets/) |
| 17 January 2023 | [Various Insuman Insulin preparations](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-various-insuman-insulin-preparations/) discontinued |
| 3 January 2023 | [Norditropin (somatropin) Flexpro® 10mg/1.5ml and Norditropin (somatropin) NordiFlex® 5mg/1.5ml, 10mg/1.5ml and 15mg/1.5ml solution for injection pre-filled pens](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-norditropin-somatropin-flexpro-10mg-1-5ml-and-norditropin-somatropin-nordiflex-5mg-1-5ml-10mg-1-5ml-and-15mg-1-5ml-solution-for-injection-pre-filled-pens/) |
| 3 January 2023 | [Selegiline (Eldepryl® ) 5mg and 10mg tablets](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-selegiline-eldepryl-5mg-and-10mg-tablets/) |
| 3 January 2023 | [Prochlorperazine (Stemetil®) 12.5mg/ml solution for injection ampoules](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-prochlorperazine-stemetil-12-5mg-ml-solution-for-injection-ampoules-2/) |
| 21 December 2022 | [Dalteparin (Fragmin® ) 10,000units/1ml solution for injection ampoule](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-dalteparin-fragmin-10000units-1ml-solution-for-injection-ampoule/) |
| 21 December 2022 | [Fluticasone 50microgram / Salmeterol 25microgam (Combisal® ) pressurised metered dose inhaler (pMDI)](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-fluticasone-50microgram-salmeterol-25microgam-combisal-pressurised-metered-dose-inhaler-pmdi/) |
| 21 December 2022 | [Pilocarpine hydrochloride 4% eye drops](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-pilocarpine-hydrochloride-4-eye-drops/) |
| 21 December 2022 | [Sulfasalazine 250mg in 5ml oral suspension sugar free](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-sulfasalazine-250mg-in-5ml-oral-suspension-sugar-free/) |
| 12 December 2022 | [Antibiotics for the treatment of Group A Strep](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-antibiotics-for-the-treatment-of-group-a-strep/) |
| 6 December 2022 | [Etrivex 500 micrograms/g Shampoo (Galderma (U.K.) Limited)](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/mhra-class-4-medicines-defect-information-etrivex-500-micrograms-g-shampoo-galderma-u-k-limited/) |
| 6 December 2022 | [Diltiazem (Tildiem Retard® )120mg tablets](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-diltiazem-tildiem-retard-120mg-tablets/) |
| 1 December 2022 | [Bupropion (Zyban®) 150mg modified-release tablets](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-bupropion-zyban-150mg-modified-release-tablets/) |
| 1 December 2022 | [Acarbose 50mg and 100mg tablets](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-acarbose-50mg-and-100mg-tablets/) |
| 25 November 2022 | [Atorvastatin (Lipitor® ) 20mg chewable tablets](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-atorvastatin-lipitor-20mg-chewable-tablets/) |

# DST webpage views

Below is a table of the top 10 DST webpage visits by users between July 2022 – December 2022, inclusive.

| **Page** | **Page views** |
| --- | --- |
| [Price Concessions](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-supply/supply-chain/generic-shortages/)  | 387,411 |
| [Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs)](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-and-supply/supply-chain/ssps/) | 133,667 |
| [Controlled Drug Prescription Forms and Validity](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-supply/dispensing-controlled-drugs/controlled-drug-prescription-forms-and-validity/) | 41,837 |
| [Special Container Database](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-and-supply/dispensing-process/dispensing-a-prescription/special-containers/special-container-database/) | 34,316 |
| [Report product over Drug Tariff price](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-and-supply/supply-chain/problems-with-obtaining-a-generic-medicine/) | 19,475 |
| [Is this Prescription Form Valid?](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-supply/receiving-a-prescription/is-this-prescription-form-valid/)  | 18,606 |
| [Invasive Group A Strep (iGAS): information for pharmacy teams](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/invasive-group-a-strep-igas-information-for-pharmacy-teams/) | 18,169 |
| [Medicine Shortages](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-supply/supply-chain/medicine-shortages/) | 17,541 |
| [Who Can Prescribe What?](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-supply/receiving-a-prescription/who-can-prescribe-what/) | 15,792 |
| [Medicine Supply Notification: Temazepam 10mg and 20mg tablets](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-temazepam-10mg-and-20mg-tablets/) | 15,642 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Subject | Statistics |
| Date of meeting | February 2023 |
| 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**

## Dispensing

**Oct-22** total items was **90.0m** over 26 dispensing days (**3.5m** items per day). This is **4.8% more** items per day than the same month in the previous year.



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As of **Oct-22**, the proportion of all items that are EPS is **95.9%**. The proportion of items that are ERD is **14.5%**.

The latest rolling 12 month item volume as of **Aug-22** is **1,070.3m** items.

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## Category M

The **Jan-23** Cat-M list will have an estimated impact of **+11 pence per item** on like-for-like reimbursement

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The estimated packs per month in **Oct-22** was **87.9m**

The cumulative total of like-for-like changes since 2019 is currently **+8 pence per item**

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## Reimbursement



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In **22/23 Q3** the average NIC/item (before clawback) was **£8.33**, and National AIV was **£9.37** (based on data to Oct-22)

In **22/23 Q3** the average fees per item was **£1.61** (based on data to Oct-22).

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## Services

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**Pharmacy contract numbers**

A waterfall chart of net change in pharmacy numbers per month indicates a cumulative drop of c-647 in the total number of pharmacy contracts since the announcement of the funding cuts.



A long view of pharmacy contract numbers demonstrates steady growth since the introduction of the new contract in 2005, followed by a reversal from early 2018 onwards.

