**Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee**

**Funding and Contract Subcommittee Agenda**

**Wednesday 23rd November 2022 at 11.00**

**Doubletree Hilton, Angel, London**

**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, Sarah Welbourne

1. Welcome from Chair
2. Apologies for absence
3. Declarations or conflicts of interest
4. Minutes of last meeting **(Confidential Appendix FCS 01/11/22)**and matters arising

**REPORTS**

1. Work Plan
   1. Workplan for Pharmacy Funding and Finance teams **(Confidential Appendix FCS 02/11/22)**

1. CPCF negotiations
   1. Independent economic review **(Confidential verbal update)**
   2. Primary care contracts update (**Confidential Appendix FCS 03/11/22)**
   3. Other UK countries contracts overview (**Confidential Appendix FCS 04/11/22)**

1. Remuneration and reimbursement
2. CPCF outturn **(Confidential Appendix FCS 05/11/22)**
3. Cat M October 2022 **(Confidential Appendix FCS 06/11/22)**
4. Retained margin update **(Confidential Appendix FCS 07/11/22)**
5. C-19 cost claims update **(Confidential Appendix FCS 08/11/22)**
6. Antivirals update **(Confidential verbal update)**
7. HRT PPC update **(Confidential Appendix FCS 09/11/22)**
8. Price concessions update **(Appendix FCS 10/11/22)**
9. Reimbursement reforms
   1. Price concessions review **(Confidential Appendices FCS 11/11/22 and FCS 12/11/22)**
   2. Discount deduction **(Confidential verbal update)**
10. General funding update **(Appendix FCS 13/11/22)**

1. Statistics **(Appendix FCS 14/11/22)**
2. Any other business

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Subject | Price concessions update |
| Date of meeting | November 2022 |
| 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

## November 2022

* As of 15 November 2022, PSNC has applied for 135 price concessions and are awaiting a decision from DHSC on these. Further concession applications may be submitted throughout the month based on reports received by PSNC.
* The review of the price concessions system is ongoing and meetings with DHSC have been constructive with both sides sharing detailed analysis of their findings.

## October 2022

* PSNC applied for a total of **168** price concessions in October 2022; DHSC wrote to PSNC on 31st October and on the 2nd November 2022with their lists of final prices.
  + **123** price concessions were agreed between DHSC and PSNC.
  + **32** products had prices imposed as PSNC was unable to agree to the final prices proposed by DHSC.
  + **6** products where PSNC and DHSC agreed to no concessionary price.
  + **7** products had a no concessionary price imposed by DHSC.
* During October, DHSC held initial meetings with PSNC to discuss improvements to the price concessions system.

## September 2022

* PSNC applied for a total of **162** price concessions in September 2022; DHSC wrote to PSNC on 30th September and 3rd October 2022 with their lists of final prices.

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

* + **26** products had prices imposed as PSNC was unable to agree to the final prices proposed by DHSC.
  + **0** products where PSNC and DHSC agreed to no concessionary price.
  + **3** products had a no concessionary price imposed by DHSC.
* Following strong contractor feedback about the level of concessionary prices imposed by DHSC for certain medicines dispensed between the months of July and September 2022, PSNC wrote to DHSC expressing concerns that the price concession system is not working in the current environment from a community pharmacy perspective.
* Following this, as part CPCF, DHSC has committed to reviewing the implementation of the price concession process as a matter of priority.
* On 7th September, PSNC presented a webinar to address questions raised by pharmacy contractors on how the current price concessions system operates. Around **750** people registered for the price concession webinar. Nine in ten said they would recommend the webinar to others, with **87% s**aying that they found it useful.

Price concessions summary

*From November 2020, a new bar (in yellow) has been added to the charts above showing the percentage and number of products for which PSNC initially applied for a price concession but later agreed to withdraw the application(s) or agree to no concessionary price(s) for these products because the data available later in the month supported the availability of stock at or below the listed Drug Tariff price.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Subject | General funding update |
| Date of meeting | November 2022 |
| 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:

* Joint work with NPPG and RCPCH to standardise the strengths of specials listed in Part VIIIB of the Drug Tariff
* Nine Part VIIIB specials reclassified as special containers from November 2022
* Discount Deduction: PSNC launches impact calculator tool
* Webinar on the changes to discount deduction system
* 15 products added to the Discount Not Deducted (DND) list from October 2022
* Reminder: Packaged dose endorsement on prescriptions for methadone oral liquid
* FreeStyle Libre Sensor to be deleted from Part IX of the January 2023 Drug Tariff
* RTEC and token submission
* Updated payment timetable and deadline tracker
* 12 SSPs for HRT medicines further extended
* Active and expired SSPs
* NHS Prescription Services ‘Hints & Tips’ – Issue 49
* Market movements with implications for supply
* DST webpage views

Joint work with NPPG and RCPCH to standardise the strengths of specials listed in Part VIIIB of the Drug Tariff

Following concerns around patient safety, the Neonatal and Paediatric Pharmacists Group (NPPG) and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) issued position statements around the standardisation of concentrations of liquid medicines used in children.

Both organisations reported concerns of children being initiated on a specific concentration of a liquid medicine which was subsequently changed to a different concentration, usually in a different healthcare setting. If parents and carers were unaware of this change in concentration, they would continue to administer the same volume of medicine and unwittingly administer a different dose to that intended with potentially serious consequences. Their position statements focussed on unlicensed liquid medicines as this is where the most variation in concentrations is seen. Several unlicensed medicines in Part VIIIB of the Drug Tariff are listed as multiple strengths of the same formulation.

The NPPG and RCPCH both strongly recommend that when children require unlicensed liquid medicines, they should receive the standard concentrations recommended by both organisations. The standardisation in the prescribed concentrations of certain unlicensed medicines is intended to reduce the risk of errors being made in the doses given to children and prevent hospitalisation from accidental under- or overdosing.

PSNC’s Dispensing and Supply Team collaborated with both organisations to review the listings of different strengths of certain unlicensed medicines listed in Part VIIIB of the [Drug Tariff](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/drug-tariff). PSNC put forward representations to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to seek removal of certain non-standard strengths of unlicensed medicines in Part VIIIB. The DHSC has been supportive of this work and changes have been made to the [November 2022 Drug Tariff](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-10/Drug%20Tariff%20November%202022.pdf) so that only the following recommended strengths appear in Part VIIIB:

* Azathioprine 50mg/5ml oral suspension or oral solution
* Hydrocortisone 5mg/5ml oral suspension
* Phenobarbital 50mg/5ml oral suspension or solution
* Sertraline 50mg/5ml oral suspension
* Spironolactone 50mg/5ml oral suspension

The latest [Drug Tariff Watch](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/drug-tariff-watch-november-2022/) outlines the non-standard strengths that have been deleted from Part VIIIB of the Tariff from November 2022.

In addition, PSNC has also queried with DHSC and NHSBSA the inclusion of multiple strengths of non-Tariff unlicensed liquid medicines in dm+d. PSNC’s Drug Tariff and Reimbursement Manager Suraj Shah said: *“We highlighted that if these are all available for selection on prescribing systems, it is likely to continue contributing to the dosing and patient safety issues highlighted by NPPG/RCPCH.”*

Background information:

[RCPCH positions statement: Using standardised concentrations of unlicensed liquid medicines in children](https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/using-standardised-concentrations-unlicensed-liquid-medicines-children-joint-position)

[NPPG positions statement 18-01: Using Standardised Concentrations of Liquid Medicines in Children](http://nppg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/NPPG-Position-Statement-18-01-V8-May-2022.pdf)

Nine Part VIIIB specials reclassified as special containers from November 2022

Following representations from PSNC, the Department of Health of Social Care (DHSC) re-determined the special container status of the following **nine** unlicensed medicines listed in Part VIIIB of the Drug Tariff from **1 November 2022**:

* Ciprofloxacin 0.3% ear drops (10ml)
* Clonazepam 2.5mg/ml drops (10ml)
* Coal tar 10% ointment (100g)
* Coal tar 5% ointment (100g)
* Coal tar solution 5% in Betamethasone valerate 0.025% ointment (100g)
* Coal tar solution 6% / Salicylic acid 2% in ointment (100g)
* Lidocaine 2% gel (15ml)
* Nifedipine 20mg/ml oral drops (30ml)
* Triamcinolone 0.1% oromucosal paste (5g)

These products have been re-classified as special containers as they met the relevant special container criteria as set out in Part II Clause 10B of the Tariff. The special container pack size for these specials corresponds to the minimum volume listed against the unlicensed medicine in Part VIIIB of the Drug Tariff. The special container pack size (minimum volume) is displayed in brackets next to product names above. Products classed as special containers in Part VIIIB of the Drug Tariff do not have a price per unit listed above the minimum quantity i.e. their reimbursement is based on the price per minimum volume in line with special container rules.

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 **894** 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/).

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 | 194 | 36 |
| **Viscous external preparations\*** | 895 | 160 | 144 | 16 |
| **Packaged in a container from which it is not practicable to dispense exact quantity\*** | 3028 | 504 | 419 | 85 |
| **Total** | **4,192** | **894** | **757** | **137** |

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

PSNC has 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.

Discount Deduction: PSNC launches impact calculator tools

Following the [**announcement of a new discount deduction system**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/changes-to-discount-deduction-arrangements/), PSNC developed webtools to help community pharmacy contractors estimate the impact of the changes on their monthly payments.

PSNC’s [**Discount Deduction Transition Calculator**](https://psnc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Discount-deduction-transition-calculator.xlsx) aims to illustrate the changes to discount deduction that a pharmacy could experience during the transition to the new arrangements from October 2022 to January 2024, when the new system will be fully in place. PSNC’s calculator requires contractors to input information about their individual pharmacy dispensing mix (i.e. split of reimbursement by appliances, brands and generics) to provide an estimate for the level of impact the new discount deduction system will have. Before using this calculator, contractors first need access to their dispensing mix data. Contractors may be able to obtain this information from their system supplier, or they could use their Prescription Item Report (PIR) data available from the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) to estimate their figures.  The impact of the changes on individual pharmacies cannot be estimated without using dispensing mix data, meaning that any estimates which do not take this into account will not be reliable.

PSNC has also developed a more detailed [**Mix Estimator**](https://psnc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Mix-estimator-webtool-v4.xlsx) tool which contractors can use to generate a mix estimate for their pharmacies using their PIR data. The tool allows contractors to enter their PIR data and receive mix values for their appliance, generic and brand reimbursement. They can then use these values in the transition calculator, to estimate the impact of the change to the new deduction arrangements on their payments. More information about the PIR and how to use it can be found [here](https://psnc.org.uk/funding-and-reimbursement/monthly-payments/information-services-portal-isp-by-the-nhsbsa/).

Webinar on the changes to discount deduction system

On 12th October 2022, PSNC held a webinar about changes to the discount deduction system. During the webinar viewers heard how the changes will help those contractors who were being disadvantaged by the previous unfair system, and how the transition arrangements will give them time to adapt. The webinar included examples of how the changes may impact some pharmacies under different scenarios. Almost all attendees said they would recommend the webinar to others, with **96%** saying that they found it useful.

15 products added to the Discount Not Deducted (DND) list from October 2022

Following applications made by PSNC to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA), a further **15 new products** were classed as ‘Drugs for which Discount is Not Deducted’ (DND) from 1 October 2022. This took the total number of products granted DND status over the past 2 years to **over 560 products** following checks made by PSNC.

15 products added to DND list on 1 October 2022:

* Amisulpride 100mg/ml oral solution sugar free
* Anagrelide 500microgram capsules
* Clobetasol 500microgram / Neomycin 5mg / Nystatin 100,000units/g cream
* Isoniazid 100mg tablets
* Lacosamide 100mg tablets
* Mag-4 (magnesium 97.2mg (4mmol)) capsules
* Naproxen 250mg effervescent tablets sugar free
* Ondansetron 8mg orodispersible tablets
* Penicillamine 125mg tablets
* Potassium permanganate 400mg tablets for cutaneous solution (Group Item)
* Risperidone 4mg orodispersible tablets sugar free
* Rivaroxaban 10mg tablets
* Rivaroxaban 15mg/20mg treatment initiation pack
* Rivaroxaban 2.5mg tablets
* Ropinirole 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/). A total of **564 products** have been granted DND status following checks made by PSNC within the past 28 months.

Reminder: Packaged dose endorsement on prescriptions for methadone oral liquid

When dispensing FP10MDA or FP10 prescriptions for methadone oral liquid, pharmacy contractors can claim packaged dose fees of £0.55 for each individual dose supplied in advance in daily dose containers.

The number of packaged dose (‘PD’) fees to claim for is calculated as the total number of separately packaged doses given minus the number of patient interactions. The endorsing column on the left-hand side of the prescription form must be clearly endorsed with the initials ‘PD’ followed by the number of fees to be claimed for example 'PD8'.

The NHSBSA has reported seeing an increase in the number of NHS prescription forms for methadone oral liquid where the PD endorsement is either unclear or incomplete and this has led to inaccurate or missed payments for contractors. 

The example below shows the correct use of PD endorsement.

For a patient who is dispensed 14 days’ supply of methadone oral liquid in separate packaged doses and visits the pharmacy 6 times to collect, can claim an additional £4.40 in packaged dose fees. The number of **additional packaged doses** to be endorsed would be calculated as follows:

14 (total number of separately packaged doses) – 6 (number of patient interactions) = 8 and this will need to be endorsed as ‘PD8’ on the left-hand side as illustrated below:

Graphical user interface, table

Description automatically generated

[Hints & Tips for dispensing contractors](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhs-prescription-services-hints-tips-issue-49/), produced by NHS Prescription Services, provides examples of common endorsing errors made by contractors when dispensing methadone oral liquid on FP10MDA forms.

FreeStyle Libre Sensors to be deleted from the Drug Tariff from January 2023  
  
Abbott Laboratories Ltd has taken the decision to discontinue the original FreeStyle Libre Sensors in the UK by 31st December 2022.  This means that the original sensors will be deleted from Part IXA of the Drug Tariff from January 2023. A three-month notice of its deletion was given in the October 2022 Drug Tariff. This discontinuation does not impact FreeStyle Libre 2 or FreeStyle Libre 3 sensors.

**Pharmacy contractors should note that any NHS prescriptions for the original FreeStyle Libre Sensors dispensed after the end of December 2022 will be returned as disallowed.**

Contractors are 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 many 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 NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) no later than the 5th January 2023.

RTEC and token submission

[**Over 80%**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/rtec-dwp-rolled-out-to-over-80-of-pharmacies/) of pharmacy organisations have now received the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) functionality for Real Time Exemption Checking (RTEC).

RTEC enables community pharmacy teams to automatically check if a patient holds a valid exemption reason for entitlement to free NHS prescriptions. If RTEC confirms that a patient holds a valid exemption reason, pharmacy teams are not required to submit the relevant tokens to the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA).

Except for prescription exemption certificates issued by the Ministry of Defence, RTEC is used to confirm the following exemptions:

* Medical exemption certificates
* Maternity exemption certificates
* Prescription prepayment certificates
* HC2 (full help) certificates
* Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
* Tax Credit Exemption Certificates
* Income-based Job Seeker’s Allowance
* Income Support
* Pension Credit Guarantee Credit
* Universal Credit

If an exemption is not recognised using RTEC and the patient claims to be exempt, the pharmacy will need to follow the usual process of capturing a patient exemption declaration and mark the ‘Evidence not seen’ box on the reverse of the EPS token before it is submitted along with the monthly prescription bundle to the NHSBSA. Such tokens are sent for audit purposes only, because pricing is normally made against the EPS claim message which includes the paid or the exemption category applied by the pharmacy.

**Which tokens am I required to submit to the NHSBSA?**

The EPS tokens which are required to be sent to the NHSBSA are those used to capture the paid or exemption declaration (except for age exempt patients, prescriptions where only free-of-charge (FOC) items are prescribed and where RTEC confirms an exemption).

Following the rollout of RTEC, there has been a decrease in the number of EPS tokens submitted to the NHSBSA. RTEC changes provide an opportunity for pharmacy teams to explore adapting their dispensing standard operating procedures so that there is reduced printing of tokens in the pharmacy. A [**survey**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/community-pharmacy-it-survey-results-80-of-pharmacies-support-going-paperless/) found that 83% of contractors supported [**paperless**](https://psnc.org.uk/digital-and-technology/technology-infrastructure-workflows/going-paperless-it/) processing.

Updated payment timetable and deadline tracker

PSNC has updated its [payment timetable and deadline tracker](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-supply/payment-accuracy/monthly-payments/payment-timetable-and-deadline-tracker/) to assist community pharmacy contractors with checking and/or claiming payments for the following services:

* [Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) 2022/23](https://psnc.org.uk/quality-and-regulations/pharmacy-quality-scheme/)
* [Appliance Use Review (AUR)](https://psnc.org.uk/services-commissioning/advanced-services/aurs/)
* [Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS)](https://psnc.org.uk/services-commissioning/advanced-services/community-pharmacist-consultation-service/)
* [COVID-19 Vaccinations](https://psnc.org.uk/the-healthcare-landscape/covid19/covid-19-vaccinations/) (please note, this is a locally commissioned service)
* [Discharge Medicines Service](https://psnc.org.uk/services-commissioning/essential-services/discharge-medicines-service/)
* [Flu Vaccination Service](https://psnc.org.uk/services-commissioning/advanced-services/flu-vaccination-service/)
* [Hepatitis C Testing Service](https://psnc.org.uk/services-commissioning/advanced-services/hep-c/)
* [Hypertension Case-Finding Service](https://psnc.org.uk/services-commissioning/advanced-services/hypertension-case-finding-service/)
* [New Medicine Service (NMS)](https://psnc.org.uk/services-commissioning/advanced-services/nms/)
* [Smoking Cessation Service (SCS)](https://psnc.org.uk/services-commissioning/advanced-services/smoking-cessation-service/)
* [Stoma Appliance Customisation](https://psnc.org.uk/services-commissioning/advanced-services/sac/)

The payment timetable and deadline tracker for each service outlines the following:

* how to claim including any deadline for claiming (where applicable);
* timing of payments;
* payment amount; and
* how payments will appear on the Schedule of Payments.

12 SSPs for HRT medicines further extended

**The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has extended the expiry date of 12 HRT SSPs that were previously due to expire 28 October 2022.**

* **The nine different SSPs for Oestrogel®** **Pump-Pack 0.06% gel,** **Ovestin® 1mg cream and Sandrena®  0.5mg and 1mg gel sachets have been extended until 30 November 2022.**
* **The three SSPs for Lenzetto® 1.53mg/dose transdermal spray have been extended until 13 January 2023.**

For more information on the 12 HRT SSPs above, see PSNC’s [news article](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-notice-12-ssps-for-hrt-medicines-extended/).

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) | 7 December 2022 | [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/) |
| [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) |
| [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) |
| [SSP029 Sandrena®  0.5mg and 1mg gel sachets – restriction](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 30 November 2022 | [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) | 30 November 2022 | [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) | 30 November 2022 | [SSP031 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-05/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP031%20Sandrena%20substitution%20and%20restriction%2023052022.pdf) |

**Expired SSPs (2022)**

| **SSP** | **Date expired** | **Supporting Information** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [SSP036: Estraderm MX® 100mcg patches](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 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) | 12 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

NHS Prescription Services ‘Hints & Tips’ – Issue 49

NHS Prescription Services produces a quarterly newsletter called “Hints & Tips for dispensing contractors”. The latest edition (Issue 49) contained some useful information and advice on:

* [Exemption Certificates](https://mailchi.mp/nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hints-and-tips-issue-1878125?e=981f05a634)
* [Understanding your FP34 Schedule of Payments](https://mailchi.mp/nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hints-and-tips-issue-1878125?e=981f05a634)
* [Packaged Doses](https://mailchi.mp/nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hints-and-tips-issue-1878125?e=981f05a634)
* [What to include in the red separator](https://mailchi.mp/nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hints-and-tips-issue-1878125?e=981f05a634)
* [RTEC Tokens](https://mailchi.mp/nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hints-and-tips-issue-1878125?e=981f05a634)
* [Submitting EPS tokens](https://mailchi.mp/nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hints-and-tips-issue-1878125?e=981f05a634)
* [Account Identifier Document](https://mailchi.mp/nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hints-and-tips-issue-1878125?e=981f05a634)
* [Electronic Repeat Dispensing (eRD)](https://mailchi.mp/nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hints-and-tips-issue-1878125?e=981f05a634)
* [MYS - User Management](https://mailchi.mp/nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hints-and-tips-issue-1878125?e=981f05a634)
* [MYS - Submission Reports](https://mailchi.mp/nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hints-and-tips-issue-1878125?e=981f05a634)
* [Seasonal Flu vaccine reimbursement](https://mailchi.mp/nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hints-and-tips-issue-1878125?e=981f05a634)

To view current and previous issues of Hints & Tips click [here](https://mailchi.mp/nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hints-and-tips-issue-1878125?e=981f05a634#Exemption).

Market movements with implications for supply

The following **16** supply disruption alerts and medicine supply notifications (issued by DHSC between 8 September 2022 and 7 November 2022) were published on the PSNC’s website by the Dispensing & Supply team to assist pharmacy teams:

| **Date** | **Drug name** |
| --- | --- |
| 7 November 2022 | [Capimune® (ciclosporin) 25mg, 50mg and 100mg capsules](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-capimune-ciclosporin-25mg-50mg-and-100mg-capsules/) |
| 7 November 2022 | [Dipyridamole 100mg tablets](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-dipyridamole-100mg-tablets/) |
| 4 November 2022 | [NovoRapid FlexPen® (Insulin aspart) 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-novorapid-flexpen-insulin-aspart-100units-ml-solution-for-injection-3ml-pre-filled-pens/) |
| 4 November 2022 | [Chlordiazepoxide 5mg and 10mg capsules](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-chlordiazepoxide-5mg-and-10mg-capsules/) |
| 27 October 2022 | [Ofloxacin 200mg tablets](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-ofloxacin-200mg-tablets/) |
| 27 October 2022 | [Fentanyl (Effentora® ) 200 microgram and 400 microgram buccal tablets](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-fentanyl-effentora-200-microgram-and-400-microgram-buccal-tablets/) |
| 25 October 2022 | [Pentoxifylline (Trental®) 400mg modified release tablets](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-pentoxifylline-trental-400mg-modified-release-tablets/) |
| 25 October 2022 | [Azelaic acid (Finacea® ) 15% gel](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-azelaic-acid-finacea-15-gel/) |
| 20 October 2022 | [Medroxyprogesterone (Provera®) 2.5mg and 10mg tablets](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-medroxyprogesterone-provera-2-5mg-and-10mg-tablets/) |
| 12 October 2022 | [Prochlorperazine (Stemetil®) 5mg/5ml Syrup](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-prochlorperazine-stemetil-5mg-5ml-syrup/) |
| 30 September 2022 | [Dioralyte® oral rehydration sachets](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-dioralyte-oral-rehydration-sachets/) |
| 30 September 2022 | [Nafarelin (Synarel® ) 200microgram/dose nasal spray](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-nafarelin-synarel-200microgram-dose-nasal-spray/) |
| 30 September 2022 | [Semaglutide (Ozempic® ) 1mg/0.74ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled disposable device](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-semaglutide-ozempic-1mg-0-74ml-solution-for-injection-3ml-pre-filled-disposable-device/) |
| 30 September 2022 | [Dulaglutide (Trulicity® ) 0.75mg, 1.5mg, 3mg and 4.5mg solution for injection devices](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notifiction-dulaglutide-trulicity-0-75mg-1-5mg-3mg-and-4-5mg-solution-for-injection-devices/) |
| 15 September 2022 | [Temazepam 10mg and 20mg tablets](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-temazepam-10mg-and-20mg-tablets/) |
| 8 September 2022 | [Estradiol (Estraderm MX® ) 25micrograms/24hours and 100micrograms/24hours transdermal patches](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-estradiol-estraderm-mx-25micrograms-24hours-and-100micrograms-24hours-transdermal-patches/) |

# DST webpage views

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

| **Page** | **Page views** |
| --- | --- |
| [Price Concessions](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-supply/supply-chain/generic-shortages/) | 291,357 |
| [Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs)](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-and-supply/supply-chain/ssps/) | 108,597 |
| [Controlled Drug Prescription Forms and Validity](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-supply/dispensing-controlled-drugs/controlled-drug-prescription-forms-and-validity/) | 41,105 |
| [Special Container Database](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-and-supply/dispensing-process/dispensing-a-prescription/special-containers/special-container-database/) | 37,803 |
| [Is this Prescription Form Valid?](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-supply/receiving-a-prescription/is-this-prescription-form-valid/) | 20,561 |
| [Medicine Shortages](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-supply/supply-chain/medicine-shortages/) | 19,591 |
| [Three new SSPs introduced for HRT medicines](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/three-new-ssps-introduced-for-hrt-medicines/) | 17,347 |
| [Report product over Drug Tariff price](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-and-supply/supply-chain/problems-with-obtaining-a-generic-medicine/) | 16,153 |
| [What does the patient pay?](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-and-supply/prescription-processing/receiving-a-prescription/patient-charges/) | 15,972 |
| [Who Can Prescribe What?](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-supply/receiving-a-prescription/who-can-prescribe-what/) | 15,703 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Subject | Statistics |
| Date of meeting | November 2022 |
| 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

**Aug-22** total items was **91.2m** over 24 dispensing days (**3.5m** items per day). This is **3.1% more** items per day than the same month in the previous year.

Chart, line chart

Description automatically generated

**Chart, line chart

Description automatically generated**

As of **Aug-22**, the proportion of all items that are EPS is **95.8%**. 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.

**Graphical user interface, application

Description automatically generated**

## Category M

The **Oct-22** Cat-M list will have an estimated impact of **+4 pence per item** on like-for-like reimbursement

**Chart, line chart

Description automatically generated**

**Chart, line chart

Description automatically generated**

The estimated packs per month in **Jul-22** was **82.4m**

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

**Chart, line chart

Description automatically generated**

## Reimbursement



**Chart, bar chart

Description automatically generated**

In **22/23 Q2** the average NIC/item (before clawback) was **£8.15**. National AIV was **£9.21.**

In **22/23 Q2** the average fees per item was **£1.61**.

**Chart, line chart

Description automatically generated**

## Services

**Chart, bar chart

Description automatically generated**

**Chart

Description automatically generated**

**Chart, bar chart

Description automatically generated**

**Pharmacy contract numbers**

**NB. NHS Digital has not published an updated eDispensary list in time to provide an update for November 2022 FunCon. The update from September 2022 FunCon is reproduced below for information.**

A waterfall chart of net change in pharmacy numbers per month indicates a cumulative drop of c-628 in the total number of pharmacy contracts since the announcement of the funding cuts.

Chart

Description automatically generated

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.

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated with medium confidence