Funding and Contract Subcommittee Agenda

**Date: Wednesday 12th July 2023**

**Start time: 12:00**

**Location: Queens Hotel, Leeds**

**Items are confidential where marked**

**Members:**Peter Cattee (Chairman), David Broome (Deputy Chairman), Jas Heer, Tricia Kennerley, Prakash Patel, Adrian Price, Anil Sharma, Ian Strachan, Gary Warner

**In attendance:**Mike Dent, Jack Cresswell, Rob Thomas, Mitesh Bhudia

1. Welcome from Chair
2. Apologies for absence
3. Declarations or conflicts of interest
4. Minutes of last meeting **(Confidential Appendix FCS 01/07/23)** and matters arising

**REPORTS**

1. Work Plan
	1. Workplan for Pharmacy Funding and Finance teams **(Confidential Appendix FCS 02/07/23)**
2. CPCF negotiations
	1. Independent economic review **(Confidential verbal update)**
	2. Social and economic value of community pharmacy **(Confidential verbal update)**
	3. Primary care contracts update **(Confidential Appendix 03/07/23)**
	4. Other UK countries contracts overview **(Confidential Appendix FCS 04/07/23)**

1. Remuneration and reimbursement
2. CPCF outturn **(Confidential Appendix FCS 05/07/23)**
3. Cat M July 2023 **(Confidential Appendix FCS 06/07/23)**
4. Retained margin update **(Confidential Appendix FCS 07/07/23)**
5. C-19 cost claims update **(Confidential Appendix FCS 08/07/23)**
6. Price concessions update **(Appendix FCS 09/07/23)**
7. Pricing Audit Team update **(Confidential Appendix 10/07/23)**
8. Reimbursement reforms
	1. Price concessions review - update **(Confidential Appendix FCS 11/07/23)**
	2. Category A - update **(Confidential Appendix 12/07/23)**
	3. Proposals to update Category M entry and exit criteria **(Confidential Appendix 13/07/23)**
9. General funding update **(Appendix FCS 14/07/23)**

1. Statistics **(Appendix FCS 15/07/23)**
2. Any other business

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Subject** | Price concessions update |
| **Date of meeting** | July 2023 |
| **Committee/Subcommittee** | FunCon |
| **Status** | Not confidential |
| **Overview** | Overview of monthly price concessions granted and updates on price concession review |
| **Proposed action(s)** | No action required |
| **Author(s) of the paper** | CPE Dispensing & Supply Team |

**Appendix FCS 09/07/2023**   **Not Confidential**

**Price Concessions Update**

**July 2023**

* As of 3 July 2023, CPE has applied for **59** price concessions. Further applications may be submitted throughout the month based on reports received by CPE.
	+ **1** product received a price that rolled over into July 2023.
* We are aware of the growing concerns relating to the availability and pricing of Atorvastatin tablets and have raised these with DHSC.

**June 2023**

* CPE applied for a total of **145** price concessions in June 2023 (including for **8** products which had prices rolled over from May to June). DHSC wrote to CPE on 30th June with their list of final prices.
* **135** price concessions were granted by DHSC and, of these, **104** were agreed between DHSC and CPE.
* **31** products had prices imposed as CPE was unable to agree to the final prices proposed by DHSC.
* **1** product where CPE and DHSC agreed to no concessionary price.
* **9** products had a no concessionary price imposed by DHSC.
* **3** of the 8 price concessions that rolled over had an upward price adjustment for June 2023. Prices were unchanged for the remaining **5** rolled over products i.e. stayed at the same prices agreed for May 2023 concessions.

**May 2023**

* CPE applied for a total of **160** price concessions in May 2023; DHSC wrote to CPE on 31st May 2023with their list of final prices.
	+ **156** price concessions were granted by DHSC and of these, **128** price concessions were agreed between DHSC and CPE.
	+ **28** products had prices imposed as CPE was unable to agree to the final prices proposed by DHSC.
	+ **0** products where CPE and DHSC agreed to no concessionary price.
	+ **4** products had a no concessionary price imposed by DHSC.
	+ **8** products received a price that rolled over into June 2023**.**

**April 2023**

* CPE applied for a total of **149** price concessions in April 2023; DHSC wrote to CPE on 28th April 2023with their list of final prices.
	+ **145** price concessions were granted by DHSC and of these, **115** price concessions were agreed between DHSC and CPE.
	+ **30** products had prices imposed as CPE was unable to agree to the final prices proposed by DHSC.
	+ **0** products where CPE and DHSC agreed to no concessionary price.
	+ **4** products had a no concessionary price imposed by DHSC.

**March 2023**

* CPE applied for a total of **184** price concessions in March 2023; DHSC wrote to CPE on 31st March 2023with their list of final prices.
	+ **178** price concessions were granted by DHSC and of these, **152** price concessions were agreed between DHSC and CPE.
	+ **26** products had prices imposed as CPE was unable to agree to the final prices proposed by DHSC.
	+ **1** product where CPE and DHSC agreed to no concessionary price.
	+ **5** products had a no concessionary price imposed by DHSC.

**February 2023**

* CPE applied for a total of **188** price concessions in February 2023; DHSC wrote to CPE on 28th February 2023with their list of final prices.
	+ **177** price concessions were granted by DHSC and of these, **143** price concessions were agreed between DHSC and CPE.
	+ **34** products had prices imposed as CPE was unable to agree to the final prices proposed by DHSC.
	+ **4** products where CPE and DHSC agreed to no concessionary price.
	+ **7** products had a no concessionary price imposed by DHSC.

 **January 2023**

* CPE applied for a total of **192** price concessions in January 2023; DHSC wrote to CPE on 31st January 2023 with their lists of final prices.

**177** price concessions were granted by DHSC and of these, **133** price concessions were agreed between DHSC and CPE.

* + **44** products had prices imposed as CPE was unable to agree to the final prices proposed by DHSC.
	+ **7** products where CPE and DHSC agreed to no concessionary price.
	+ **8** products had a no concessionary price imposed by DHSC.

**Price concessions summary graphs**





|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Subject** | General funding update |
| **Date of meeting** | July 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** | CPE Dispensing & Supply Team |

**Appendix FCS 14/07/2023**    **Not Confidential**

**General funding update**

The following items are included as matters of report:

* Changes to discount deduction arrangements from April 2023
* July 2023 Category M prices announced
* New Flat Fee payment introduced from April 2023
* Transitional Payments set to zero from February 2023
* Update: Accuracy of product and pricing information held on NHS dm+d
* Brand name prescribing status for Tacrolimus products updated on dm+d
* Retrospective pricing adjustments for Venofer, Ferinject and Aptamil products
* Price redetermination for Mebeverine 50mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free
* DHSC/NHSE announce new approach for C-19 antiviral supply
* Prescription charges remain free for those aged 60 and over
* Prescription charge rises to £9.65
* Introduction of new Prepayment Certificate (PPC) for HRT: Guidance and FAQs
* Two new products added to the HRT PPC medicines list from June 2023
* Selling PPCs through pharmacy
* Colesevelam 625mg tablets reclassified as a special container
* 36 products added to the Discount Not Deducted (DND) list between March 2023 - July 2023
* SSP VAT changes from 1 June 2023
* Updates to SSPs
* Active and expired SSPs
* End of antiviral medicine prescribing for 2022/23 influenza season
* Changes to NHSBSA emails
* NHS Prescription Services ‘Hints & Tips’ – Issue 51
* Market movements with implications for supply
* DST webpage views

**Changes to discount deduction arrangements from April 2023**

Further changes to the discount deduction arrangements were implemented from April 2023 including:

* All concession lines treated as Group Items for Discount Not Deducted i.e. DND or zero discount (ZD) items
* Rate of discount deduction for generics increased from 17.52% to 20%

## Zero discount status granted to concession lines

As part of the Year 4 & 5 funding settlement for community pharmacy, it was agreed that an urgent review of the price concession setting system would take place.

Since this [announcement](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-pharmacy-contractual-framework-2019-to-2024/community-pharmacy-contractual-framework-5-year-deal-year-4-2022-to-2023-and-year-5-2023-to-2024), CPE has been working with Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) officials to determine improvements to the price concession system.

One of the changes agreed between CPE and DHSC is for all concession lines to be considered as Group Items for Discount Not Deducted. Therefore, from 1 April 2023, a new category was introduced into Part II of the Drug Tariff ‘Drugs for which discount is not deducted’.

## Increase in generic discount deduction rate

As part of a series of drug reimbursement reforms proposed by DHSC following a public consultation in 2019, changes were made to the discount deduction arrangements which took effect from October 2022. These changes involved a transition to a new discount system, with the previous single discount scale being split into three groups: one each for generic medicines, branded medicines and appliances.

The discount rates and transition period from the old to the new system were agreed between CPE and DHSC in summer 2022. [See the original announcement here.](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/changes-to-discount-deduction-arrangements/)

However, following pressure from NHS England (NHSE), Ministers have now chosen to impose changes to the previously agreed discount deduction arrangements, which come into effect from 1 April 2023, and will be kept under review. The revised generics discount deduction rate is 20%

**July 2023 Category M prices announced**

The Drug Tariff Category M pricelist for July 2023 has been published on the [NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) website](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/drug-tariff/drug-tariff-part-viii). The July Category M prices reflected an increase in reimbursement levels of approximately £5m per quarter. This is the net effect of 2 elements:

* an adjustment of -£23.8m, in light of the results of the margin survey (latest result up until end of December 2022), and the phasing down of the additional £100m agreed across years 4 and 5 as part of the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework
* uplifts for underlying market prices (between January – March 2023)

Community Pharmacy England has agreed the adjustments based on our analysis of margin delivery and on current projections for 2023/24. Our objectives are to ensure full delivery of agreed margin and smooth delivery as much as possible. As always, the impact on individual pharmacies will vary depending on dispensing mix.

**New Flat Fee payment to be introduced from April 2023**

As part of the Year 4 & 5 funding settlement for community pharmacy, it was agreed that a new Flat Fee payment would be introduced from April 2023. This would be paid to all contractors who dispense at least 101 items a month, up to a national total of £70m on an annual basis.

The value of the Flat Fee payment was determined at £533 per month and was introduced in the April 2023 Drug Tariff.

As with all payments, the Flat Fee payments are subject to change throughout the year depending on the overall level of funding delivery to community pharmacies. This will be carefully monitored by CPE and DHSC, and any funding changes will be communicated to pharmacy contractors as soon as they are known. More details on this announcement can be found [here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-pharmacy-contractual-framework-2019-to-2024/community-pharmacy-contractual-framework-5-year-deal-year-4-2022-to-2023-and-year-5-2023-to-2024)

**Transitional Payments set to zero from February 2023**

The DHSC [determined](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/dhsc-to-remove-transitional-payments-from-february/) that from February 2023 onwards, Transitional Payments would be set to zero. **This is reflected in the February Schedule of Payments received by contractors** in April 2023.  During discussions with DHSC, CPE had rejected the change to the Transitional Payments on the grounds that any further reductions in payments would be impossible for community pharmacy contractors to manage financially. The reduction was then ultimately imposed without agreement. Click [here](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/contractor-reminder-transitional-payments-set-to-zero-from-february/) for further information.

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

CPE remains concerned about accuracy of product and pricing information held on NHS dictionary of medicines and devices (dm+d) as it can directly affect pharmacy payments.

Over the past few months, CPE’s Dispensing and Supply team (DST) has 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 CPE is still awaiting an update on **30** of the outstanding issues which are currently being investigated by the NHSBSA.

Table of issues identified and submitted to 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 | 2 (see table below) |
| **Pharmacy team issue** | 1 | N/A | N/A |
| **Authoring Issues** | 256 | 256 | 237 |
| **Total** | **364** | **363** | **333** |

CPE 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.

CPE’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. See Table below for a summary of the issues submitted to the dm+d Content Committee.

**Submissions to dm+d Content Committee Submissions and their responses**

| **Dm+d issue** | **Patient safety risk** | **CPE position** | **Dm+d Content Committee response and status** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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 sit 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: Closed**  |
| 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. | Based on the information available and advice from experts the consensus of the Content Committee is that the VMP Prescribing Status will be changed to: Caution - AMP level prescribing advised’ for oral Tacrolimus only (see below for more information).There is no national definitive authority which can be used as a comprehensive reference point regarding whether to prescribe by brand name or not BUT details about when we apply this Prescribing Status indicator is included in the NHS dm+d Editorial Policy (pages 21-22).Regarding ‘primidone’ the BNF recommends no switching when it is being used as an antiepileptic but there is no such recommendation for its use in neuropathic pain or tremor. Taking this into account and our dm+d authoring policy, we are correct to not utilise this caution flag here.Regarding ‘metolazone’ the BNF doesn’t overtly say you must prescribe by brand. The BNF does say that there is a difference in bioavailability and the patient should not be swapped between brands though. With the exception of ‘metolazone’ which we will reflect on and feedback to you on separately, the Content Committee is satisfied with how this flag has been applied to medicines in dm+d. **Status: Ongoing** |
| 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 the VMP ‘Hepatitis A vaccine (inactivated, adsorbed) suspension for injection 0.5ml pre-filled syringes’Example 2: Under the VMP 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 Content Committee has concluded that this falls into the remit of clinical decision support which is outside the scope of the dm+d authoring policy here. dm+d is not intended as a decision support tool and that this is out of scope for dm+d.**Status: Complete** |
| 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 being looked at on a national level, dm+d is just one piece of the project working on it. As part of an ongoing investigation, NHSBSA Information colleagues will work to support an investigation into the frequency of Specials use and this will provide insight as to what Specials could be candidates for possible discontinuation in the future in dm+d. The Content Committee highlight that dm+d is required to support multiple use cases.The topic of Specials is being investigated on the back of the National Cancer Framework and the experts leading on this work will need to be part of future decision making. It will also be up to the experts leading on the national review of Specials (not the dm+d Content Committee) to decide how to engage with potential stakeholder such as CPE.**Status: Ongoing** |
| 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 lead 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.The relevant valid oral ibuprofen concepts were updated in the Drug Tariff and on the dm+d database for 1st April 2023 and this was communicated to the dm+d user community via the comms document in the TRUD files. In addition to the ibuprofen sodium dihydrate issue that you raised, when we conducted our investigation, we realised that ibuprofen lysine authoring was also similar, and we duly addressed this. Regarding the ibuprofen scenario, the MHRA adviser to the Content Committee has indicated that the history with ibuprofen and related salts is considered to be an exception and we are not aware of any products listed in dm+d like the ibuprofen scenario that needs updating.**Status: Complete** |

**Brand name prescribing status for Tacrolimus products updated on dm+d**

Following representation from CPE, the NHSBSA added the *‘Caution – AMP level prescribing advised’* marker to oral Tacrolimus products on the Dictionary of medicines and devices (dm+d). This was in line with the [MHRA guidance](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fdrug-safety-update%2Foral-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&data=05%7C01%7Ca.bickle%40nhs.net%7Cdb813a792bba4665a68308db1010bf18%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C0%7C638121436325797097%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=lrU5SAnHrq8BJFtvp1C2nUBTcvaOzjOZe%2FuQVySArz8%3D&reserved=0) that oral Tacrolimus products should be prescribed and dispensed by brand name only, to minimise the risk of inadvertent switching between products, which has been associated with reports of toxicity and graft rejection. The following Oral Tacrolimus Virtual Medicinal Products (VMPs) are now also flagged as ‘Caution – AMP level prescribing advised’:

* [Tacrolimus 500microgram modified-release capsules](https://services.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/dmd-browser/vmp/view/11902?ref=YW1wTmFtZT1UYWNyb2xpbXVzKzUwMG1pY3JvZ3JhbSttb2RpZmllZC1yZWxlYXNlK2NhcHN1bGVzJnNlYXJjaFR5cGU9QU1QJnNob3dJbnZhbGlkSXRlbXM9ZmFsc2UmaGlkZVBhcmFsbGVsSW1wb3J0PWZhbHNlJmhpZGVTcGVjaWFsT3JkZXI9ZmFsc2UmaGlkZURpc2NvbnRpbnVlZEl0ZW1zPWZhbHNl)
* [Tacrolimus 1mg modified-release capsules](https://services.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/dmd-browser/vmp/view/11903?ref=YW1wTmFtZT1UYWNyb2xpbXVzKzFtZyttb2RpZmllZC1yZWxlYXNlK2NhcHN1bGVzJnNlYXJjaFR5cGU9QU1QJnNob3dJbnZhbGlkSXRlbXM9ZmFsc2UmaGlkZVBhcmFsbGVsSW1wb3J0PWZhbHNlJmhpZGVTcGVjaWFsT3JkZXI9ZmFsc2UmaGlkZURpc2NvbnRpbnVlZEl0ZW1zPWZhbHNl)
* [Tacrolimus 3mg modified-release capsules](https://services.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/dmd-browser/vmp/view/16080?ref=YW1wTmFtZT1UYWNyb2xpbXVzKzNtZyttb2RpZmllZC1yZWxlYXNlK2NhcHN1bGVzJnNlYXJjaFR5cGU9QU1QJnNob3dJbnZhbGlkSXRlbXM9ZmFsc2UmaGlkZVBhcmFsbGVsSW1wb3J0PWZhbHNlJmhpZGVTcGVjaWFsT3JkZXI9ZmFsc2UmaGlkZURpc2NvbnRpbnVlZEl0ZW1zPWZhbHNl)
* [Tacrolimus 5mg modified-release capsules](https://services.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/dmd-browser/vmp/view/11904?ref=YW1wTmFtZT1UYWNyb2xpbXVzKzVtZyttb2RpZmllZC1yZWxlYXNlK2NhcHN1bGVzJnNlYXJjaFR5cGU9QU1QJnNob3dJbnZhbGlkSXRlbXM9ZmFsc2UmaGlkZVBhcmFsbGVsSW1wb3J0PWZhbHNlJmhpZGVTcGVjaWFsT3JkZXI9ZmFsc2UmaGlkZURpc2NvbnRpbnVlZEl0ZW1zPWZhbHNl)

NHSBSA [noted](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2023-03/dmd_extract_comms_3_2_0.docx) that the reason for not flagging all Oral Tacrolimus VMPs is explained on page 22 of their [NHS dm+d Editorial Policy](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2023-02/Editorial%20Policy%20R2%20v3.6%20February%202023_0.docx): ‘where only one licensed AMP is/has been available and the VMP has an ‘approved’ generic name, then that product should not be marked with ‘Caution – AMP level prescribing advised’.

To support brand name prescribing (Actual Medicinal Product (AMP) level prescribing of certain drugs in line with guidance issued by MHRA/SPS/BNF, CPE requested the addition of the ‘Caution – AMP level prescribing advised’ marker on dm+d to other products that were required / recommended for prescribing by brand. For example, [Primidone 50mg tablets](https://services.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/dmd-browser/vmp/view/17871?ref=YW1wTmFtZT1QcmltaWRvbmUmc2VhcmNoVHlwZT1BTVAmc2hvd0ludmFsaWRJdGVtcz1mYWxzZSZoaWRlUGFyYWxsZWxJbXBvcnQ9ZmFsc2UmaGlkZVNwZWNpYWxPcmRlcj1mYWxzZSZoaWRlRGlzY29udGludWVkSXRlbXM9ZmFsc2U%3D) does not have the ‘Caution-AMP level prescribing advised’ marker. CPE is awaiting a decision from NHSBSA on these.

To view additional information from our news article, click [here](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/brand-name-prescribing-status-for-tacrolimus-products-updated-on-dmd/).

**Retrospective pricing adjustments for Venofer, Ferinject and Aptamil products**

Following representations from CPE, DHSC has confirmed that the following products were granted upward retrospective pricing adjustments due to out of date product and/or pricing information held on NHS dm+d.

To apply for June 2022 prescriptions:

* **Aptamil® Anti-Reflux powder (800 gram) – £13.40** (instead of £12.13 for 900g)
* **Aptamil® Comfort milk (800 gram) – £13.40** (instead of £12.13 for 900g)
* **Aptamil® First milk powder (800 gram) – £11.00** (instead of £9.12 for 900g)
* **Aptamil® Follow On milk (800 gram) – £11.00** (instead of £10.74 for 900g)
* **Aptamil® lactose free powder 400g – £7.70** (instead of £7.25)

Additionally, DHSC also granted upward retrospective pricing adjustments for the following products (dispensed against generically written or branded prescriptions) between June to September 2022:

* **Venofer® (Iron sucrose) 100mg/5ml solution for injection vials (5 vials) – £51.20** (instead of £43.52)
* **Ferinject® (Ferric carboxymaltose) 1000mg/20ml solution for injection vials (1 vial)- £154.23** (instead of £137.00)

For these products, pricing adjustments were included in the **April 2023 Schedule of Payments**. The payments appeared as ‘**Adjustment drugs**‘ and ‘**Adjustment fees**‘ (where applicable). The adjustments for products listed above was shown as a combined total.

CPE has raised concerns with DHSC about the accuracy of certain product and pricing information held on dm+d. CPE is in discussion with DHSC regarding improvements to the data gathering and checking processes for dm+d database, managed by NHSBSA.

**Price redetermination for Mebeverine 50mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free**

The DHSC [announced](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/retrospective-mebeverine-50mg5ml-price-adjustment-nhs-england-and-wales-december-2022-february-2023) that the following product had a price redetermination due to late notification of a price increase by the manufacturer.

* Mebeverine 50mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free (300ml) – **£205.70** (instead of £187.00)

The revised price was applied to prescriptions dispensed between December 2022 and February 2023:

Pharmacy contractors should note that was not reflected in December 2022, January 2023 or February 2023 Drug Tariffs. Any necessary price adjustments will be included in **February 2023 Schedule of Payments**. The payments will appear as ‘**Adjustment drugs’** and ‘**Adjustment fees**‘ (if applicable).

**DHSC/NHSE announce new approach for C-19 antiviral supply**

The DHSC and NHSE [announced](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/drug-tariff-part-viiic-may-2023) a new approach to the supply of COVID-19 antivirals to patients living in the community.

Ministers decided that this will follow the business as usual approach to medicines supply, with prescribers in general practices being asked to prescribe the medicines and prescriptions being dispensed in community pharmacies. However, pharmacy contractors will be able to order the antivirals free of charge from the Government’s stockpile, via Alliance Healthcare.

Click [here](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/dhsc-nhse-announce-new-approach-for-c-19-antiviral-supply/) for further information.

**Prescription charges remain free for those aged 60 and over**

The Government  [announced](https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2023-06-15/hcws851) on June 15, that all those aged 60 and over will remain eligible for exemption from the NHS prescription charge.

The announcement was the official response to a 2021 public consultation that recommended raising the free prescription threshold to meet the state pension age at age 66. As well as keeping the upper age limit for free prescriptions at the age of 60, the Government confirmed that people under 16, or aged 17 and 18 but in full time education, will also continue to be exempt from prescription charges.

The public consultation received over 117,000 responses, the majority of which were opposed to the proposed change. Responses cited, among other issues, cost of living pressures and risk to health of people not taking prescribed medication correctly as reasons for keeping the prescription exemption age where it is.

Whilst the outcome of the consultation is positive news, CPE supports the removal of all NHS prescription charges. The charge places our community pharmacy teams in an impossible position of policing a Government tax that many people cannot afford, whilst the money does not benefit the pharmacies who collect it in any way. Meanwhile, pharmacy funding has been cut in real terms every year.

[Read the consultation outcome in full](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/aligning-the-upper-age-for-nhs-prescription-charge-exemptions-with-the-state-pension-age/outcome/aligning-the-upper-age-for-nhs-prescription-charge-exemptions-with-the-state-pension-age-government-response)

**Prescription charge rises to £9.65**

From**1st April 2023**, the NHS prescription charge **increased to £9.65 per prescription item** (note: some items may incur more than one charge).

The cost of PPCs increased, with the price of a three-month PPC at £31.25 (an increase of £1.00) and a 12-month PPC at £111.60 (an increase of £3.50). PPCs offer savings for those needing four or more items in three months, or 12 or more items in a year.

The recently announced HRT PPC costs £19.30 (the cost of two prescription charges). Please note that whilst the HRT PPC was originally announced as costing £18.70, this increased to reflect the rise in the NHS prescription charge. This PPC can only be used when a patient is prescribed a listed HRT medicine.

The Government states that these increases were in line with inflation.

**Charge Card**

CPE’s Prescription Charge Card confirms the new NHS prescription charge of £9.65 per item, explaining that this is a tax from the Government that does not benefit the pharmacy who collects it in any way, and highlighting the cuts to pharmacy funding. Should this wording raise questions, pharmacy team members could use this as an opportunity to raise awareness of the #SaveOurPharmacies campaign and direct people to the campaign website: <https://saveourpharmacies.co.uk/>

Click [here](https://cpe.org.uk/dispensing-and-supply/prescription-processing/receiving-a-prescription/patient-charges/prescription-charge-card/) to view the charge cards and PPC poster.

**Introduction of new Prepayment Certificate (PPC) for HRT: Guidance and FAQs**

### **Background and Latest Position**

From 1 April 2023, patients who are not already exempt from NHS prescription charges are able to purchase an annual HRT PPC for the cost of two single prescription charges. This was in line with Government policy to make HRT medicines more accessible and it is a positive development for patients – CPE supported this principle and had argued that these medicines should have been free.

But NHS systems have not kept pace with policy, meaning the certificate launched without the IT in place to support it. CPE was clear that this was totally unacceptable, including raising this with Ministers directly and warning them that introducing the PPC without this infrastructure risks causing confusion for some patients and adding to the burden for pharmacy teams.

Government recognised the challenges but was determined to move forwards with the policy. DHSC recognised the impact this on pharmacies and we are still pressing for appropriate financial compensation. We have also sought guidance for GPs, and now published our own guidance to try to make the launch go as smoothly as it can for pharmacy teams.

To support pharmacy teams with the roll-out of the HRT PPC, the DHSC published their guidance document on the [NHSBSA website](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hrt-ppc-guidance). The guidance outlined the changes taking place and how this will impact on the issuing and dispensing of prescriptions for HRT products.

Separately to this, to support pharmacy teams CPE has published a [briefing containing supplementary information and a comprehensive set of FAQs](https://cpe.org.uk/briefings/psnc-briefing-008-23-faqs-to-support-dhsc-guidance-on-the-new-hrt-prescription-prepayment-certificate-hrt-ppc/). These are based on our understanding of this policy from discussions with DHSC. Our guidance covers a whole range of information from the scope of the HRT PPC through to changes to NHS stationery and processing of EPS vs paper FP10 prescriptions for listed HRT medicines. It also contains a number of illustrative diagrams and flowcharts to help clarify the procedures. a number of illustrative diagrams and flowcharts to help clarify the procedures.

Click [here](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/hrt-ppc-guidance-and-faqs-now-available/) to view the full article.

**Two new products added to the HRT PPC medicines list from June 2023**

From June 2023, the DHSC updated its definition of Hormone Replacement Therapy to include two more products to the list of HRT medicines covered by the new HRT prepayment certificate (HRT PPC). The new additions included:

* Tibolone 2.5mg tablets (Livial®)
* Prasterone 6.5mg pessaries (Intrarosa®)

The June 2023 Drug Tariff (Part XVI) was updated to include these additional HRT medicines for which patients will be able to purchase an HRT PPC. See below the updated of definition of HRT as outlined in Part XVI of the [June 2023 Drug Tariff](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2023-05/Drug%20Tariff%20June%202023.pdf):

‘Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) is the replacement of female sex hormones oestrogen and progesterone in women to control symptoms of the menopause. Some medicines that are converted or break down into oestrogen, progestogen or androgen hormones are prescribed for relief of menopausal symptoms. For the purposes of the HRT PPC these are included within this definition of HRT. Types of HRT include:

* combined oestrogen plus progestogen HRT – for women who still have their uterus
* oestrogen only HRT – for women who have had a hysterectomy
* tibolone – acts as a combined hormone therapy.

To be included on the list below (and therefore within scope of the HRT PPC) the products must be:

1. HRT as defined above; and
2. licensed for the treatment of menopausal symptoms in the UK.

Please note: there can be variation in the licensing of different medicines containing the same active substance’

**Click** [here](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/two-new-products-added-to-the-hrt-ppc-medicines-list-from-june-2023/) **to view the full article.**

**Selling PPCs through MYS**

From Thursday 29 June 2023, the NHSBSA has enabled functionality to allow pharmacies to sell all types of Prescription Prepayment Certificates (PPCs) through the [Manage Your Service (MYS)](https://services.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-prescription-services-submissions/login) portal. The selling of PPCs through the MYS portal is an optional, unfunded activity for pharmacies.

* Patients can purchase PPCs directly from the NHSBSA website, and this is the recommended route to help them identify the PPC that is right for them.
* Patients can purchase an HRT PPC online at [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hrt-ppc](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=3d51d8007d&e=3d6079034b) or telephone 0300 330 2089.

A standard (3 or 12-month) PPC can be purchased from [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/help-nhs-prescriptioncosts/nhs-prescription-prepayment-certificate-ppc](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=de1d191645&e=3d6079034b) or telephone 0300 330 1341.

Both pages also describe the scenarios each type of PPC may be best suited to. If a patient is unsure or needs more guidance, they can use the [NHSBSA's online eligibility checker](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=03002a2de4&e=3d6079034b).

Pharmacy teams should note that selling of PPCs in pharmacy may be beneficial for patients who require assistance for example due to difficulties using and/or accessing the internet. Please note the few pharmacies currently registered to sell standard PPCs will no longer need to log into a separate online system to process the PPCs sold through the pharmacy. MYS will be automatically updated to include a tab to 'Sell a Prescription Payment Certificate'.

Community Pharmacy England's [Prescription Prepayment Certificate (PPC) Poster](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=581466d7f2&e=3d6079034b) contains a QR code which can be scanned by a patient to take them directly to NHSBSA's website to purchase a PPC.

**Colesevelam 625mg tablets reclassified as a special container**

Following representations from CPE, the DHSC has re-determined the special container status of Colesevelam 625mg tablets to be supplied as complete packs. From April 2023, this product was added to Part VIII of the [Drug Tariff](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-07/Drug%20Tariff%20August%202022.pdf) with special container status as it met the relevant criteria as set out in Part II Clause 10B of the Drug Tariff.

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 | 186 | 44 |
| **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** | **736** | **159** |

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

Since August 2019, CPE’s Dispensing & Supply team has reviewed over **4,000** products against Drug Tariff special container criteria. The three main criteria under which CPE 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, CPE 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://cpe.org.uk/dispensing-and-supply/dispensing-process/dispensing-a-prescription/special-containers/special-containers-notice-of-change-to-product-special-container-status/).

CPE 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.

**36 products added to the Discount Not Deducted (DND) list between March 2023 - July 2023**

Following applications made by CPE to the DHSC and the NHSBSA, a further **36 new products** were added to the ‘Drugs for which Discount is Not Deducted’ (DND) list in the between March 2023 and June 2023. Over **600 products** have been granted DND status following checks made by CPE.

**10 products** to be added to DND list in the June 2023 Drug Tariff:

* Ampicillin 250mg capsules
* Chlortalidone 50mg tablets
* Diazoxide 50mg tablets
* Eudemine 50mg tablets
* Flutamide 250mg tablets
* Hydrocortisone 10mg soluble tablets sugar free
* Hydrocortisone 2.5mg tablets
* Mianserin 30mg tablets
* Pyrazinamide 500mg tablets
* Sitagliptin 100mg/5ml oral solution sugar free

**25 products** to be added to DND list in the April 2023 Drug Tariff:

* Alpha tocopheryl acetate 500mg/5ml oral suspension
* Byannli 1000mg/5ml prolonged-release suspension for injection pre-filled syringes
* Byannli 700mg/3.5ml prolonged-release suspension for injection pre-filled syringes
* Dexcom One CGM System (contains 1 sensor, 1 sensor applicator, 1 transmitter) (Dexcom International Ltd) 1
* Dexcom One Sensor (Dexcom International Ltd) 1 kit
* Dexcom One Sensor (Dexcom International Ltd) 3 kit
* Dexcom One Transmitter (Dexcom International Ltd) 1
* Granisetron 3mg/3ml solution for injection ampoules
* Magnesium sulfate 10% (magnesium 0.4mmol/ml) solution for injection 10ml ampoules
* Metformin 1g/5ml oral solution sugar free
* Metformin 850mg/5ml oral solution sugar free
* Metronidazole 200mg/5ml oral suspension
* Nizatidine 300mg capsules
* Paracetamol 240mg suppositories
* Passio disposable collection kit - PAS-10
* Propiverine 15mg tablets
* Quinagolide 50microgram tablets and Quinagolide 25microgram tablets
* Renvela 0.8g oral powder sachets
* Rifampicin 150mg capsules
* Sodium chloride 30% solution for infusion 100ml vials
* Sodium chloride 30% solution for injection 10ml ampoules
* Tagrisso 80mg tablets
* Timolol 10mg / Bendroflumethiazide 2.5mg tablets
* Vancomycin 500mg powder for solution for infusion vials
* Water for injections 100ml vials

**1 product** was added to DND list in the March 2023 Drug Tariff:

* Procyclidine 5mg/5ml oral solution sugar free

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/).

**SSP VAT changes from 1 June 2023**

The DHSC has provided clarification from HMRC that VAT is not applicable on products supplied in accordance with serious shortage protocols (SSPs). From 1 June 2023, the allowance for VAT currently paid alongside product reimbursement will stop being paid when reimbursing for products supplied in accordance with SSPs. Until the end of May 2023, for products supplied in accordance with a SSP, a VAT allowance will be paid. This change was reflected from the June 2023 Drug Tariff.

This change in VAT status for SSPs was initially communicated by DHSC and NHSE in the letter to community pharmacy owners published on 12 May 2023. Our members will need to reclaim VAT paid on the purchase of medicines supplied in accordance with an SSP, as they ordinarily do for medicines dispensed against prescriptions. HMRC will be updating their guidance on the correct VAT liability of SSP shortly.

**Updates to 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).

**New SSPs**

* [SSP053](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) for Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension was issued on 6 April 2023. This SSP is set to expire on to 21 July 2023. For every 5ml of Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension SSP053 allows pharmacists to supply 2.5ml x Clarithromycin 250mg/5ml oral suspension.
* [SSP054](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) for Clarithromycin 250mg/5ml oral suspension was issued on 6 April 2023. This SSP is set to expire on to 21 July 2023. For every 5ml of Clarithromycin 250mg/5ml oral suspension SSP054 allows pharmacists to supply 1 x Clarithromycin 250mg tablet.
* [SSP056](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) for Utrogestan® 100mg capsules was issued on 19 May 2023. This SSP is set to expire on to 18 August 2023. SSP056 allows pharmacists to supply no more than two months’ worth of supply of Utrogestan 100mg capsules.

**Extended SSPs**

* [SSP052](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) for Progynova® TS 100micrograms/24hours transdermal patches was extended to 8 September 2023. It was previously set to expire on 9 June 2023. SSP052 allows pharmacists to supply FemSeven® 100 patches instead of Progynova® TS 100mcg/24hr patches.

**Recently expired SSPs**

* SSP040-047 for Phenoxymethylpenicillin preparations expired on 12 May 2023
* SSP032 for Lipitor® 10mg chewable tablets expired on 12 May 2023
* SSP029-031 for Sandrena® 0.5mg and 1mg gel sachets expired on 12 May 2023
* SSP051 for Paracetamol 240mg suppositories expired on 5 May 2023
* SSP050 for Paracetamol 120mg suppositories expired on 5 May 2023

**Active and expired SSPs**

**Active SSPs**

| **SSP** | **Expiry Date** | **Supporting Information** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [SSP052 Progynova® TS 100micrograms/24hours transdermal patches](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 9 September 2023 | [SSP052 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2023-03/Progynova%20endorsement%20guidance%2028032023.pdf) |
| [SSP053: Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 21 July 2023 | [SSP053 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2023-04/Endorsement%20guidance%20Clarithromycin%20125mg-5ml%20oral%20susp.pdf) |
| [SSP054: Clarithromycin 250mg/5ml oral suspension](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 21 July 2023 | [SSP054 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2023-04/Endorsement%20guidance%20Clarithromycin%20250mg-5ml%20oral%20susp.pdf) |
| [SSP056: Utrogestan 100mg capsules](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 18 August 2023 | [SSP056 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) |

**Expired SSPs**

| **SSP** | **Date expired** | **Supporting Information** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [SSP029 Sandrena®  0.5mg and 1mg gel sachets – restriction](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 12 May 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) | 12 May 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) | 12 May 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) | 12 May 2023 | [SSP032 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-05/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP032%20Atorvastatin%20Chewable%2031052022.pdf) |
| [SSP040 Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution sugar free](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 12 May 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) | 12 May 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) | 12 May 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) | 12 May 2023 | [SSP043 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2023-01/240120~1.PDF) |
| [SSP044 Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution sugar free](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 12 May 2023 | [SSP044 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2023-01/240120~2.PDF) |
| [SSP045 Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 12 May 2023 | [SSP045 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2023-01/240120~3.PDF) |
| [SSP046 Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution sugar free](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 12 May 2023 | [SSP046 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2023-01/240120~4.PDF) |
| [SSP047 Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg tablets](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 12 May 2023 | [SSP047 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2023-01/24012023%20Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP047%20Penicillin%20250mg%20tabs.pdf) |
| [SSP050 Paracetamol 120mg suppositories](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 05 May 2023 | [SSP050 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2023-02/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP050%20Paracetamol%20120mg%20suppositories%2016022023.pdf) |
| [SSP051 Paracetamol 240mg suppositories](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 05 May 2023 | [SSP051 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2023-03/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP051%20Paracetamol%20240mg%20suppositories%2016032023.pdf) |
| [SSP005: Fluoxetine 10mg tablets](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 31 March 2023 | [SSP005 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-02/Supporting%20endorsement%20guidance%20fluoxetine%2010mg%20tablets%2001022022.pdf) |
| [SSP049 Estradot® 100mcg patches](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 17 March 2023 | [SSP049 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2023-01/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP049%20Estradot%20100%2025012023.pdf) |
| [SSP048 Estradot® 50mcg patches](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 24 February 2023 | [SSP048 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2023-01/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP048%20Estradot%2050%2025012023.pdf) |

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

**End of antiviral medicine prescribing for 2022/23 influenza season**

In light of surveillance data indicating that circulation of influenza in the community returned to baseline levels, DHSC published an alert on 9 May 2023 to inform prescribers working in primary care and pharmacy teams that antiviral medicines should no longer be prescribed.

Community pharmacists should no longer supply antiviral medicines for the prophylaxis and treatment of influenza on a FP10 prescription form.

[Click here to read the prescribing and supply of antivirals alert in full](https://www.cas.mhra.gov.uk/ViewAndAcknowledgment/viewAlert.aspx?AlertID=103230)

**Changes to NHSBSA emails**

Email addresses for the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) are changing. For pharmacy teams this means that some of the email addresses previously used to contact NHS Prescription Services will no longer work.

There will be a small transition period where emails sent to the old address will be automatically forwarded. This ends on Tuesday 18 July. After this date, emails sent to the old email address will not be received by the NHSBSA, so pharmacy teams are advised to use the new email address from this point on.

The new email address for the Manage Your Service (MYS) admin team is: mys@nhsbsa.nhs.uk. The new email address for the Contactor Payments team is: contractorpayments@nhsbsa.nhs.uk.

The email address for all queries relating to Prescriptions Services will not change. You can still contact Prescription Services at: nhsbsa.prescriptionservices@nhsbsa.nhs.uk.

**NHS Prescription Services ‘Hints & Tips’ – Issue 51**

NHS Prescription Services produces a quarterly newsletter called “Hints & Tips for dispensing contractors”. The latest edition (Issue 51) contained some useful information and advice on:

* [Patients claiming free NHS prescriptions](https://mailchi.mp/nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hints-and-tips-issue-1879001#Free%20prescriptions)
* [Real Time Exemption Checking](https://mailchi.mp/nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hints-and-tips-issue-1879001#Real%20Time%20Exemption%20Checking)
* [Submitting EPS tokens to the NHSBSA](https://mailchi.mp/nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hints-and-tips-issue-1879001#EPS)
* [Submitting Accounts to Scanning Sites](https://mailchi.mp/nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hints-and-tips-issue-1879001#Submitting%20Accounts%20to%20Scanning%20Sites)
* [HRT PPC](https://mailchi.mp/nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hints-and-tips-issue-1879001#HRT%20PPC)
* [Disallowed Items](https://mailchi.mp/nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hints-and-tips-issue-1879001#Disallowed%20items)
* [New Medicine Service PPV](https://mailchi.mp/nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hints-and-tips-issue-1879001#NMS)

To view current and previous issues of Hints & Tips click [here](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/hints-and-tips-open-days-and-webinars#jumplink0).

**Market movements with implications for supply**

To assist pharmacy teams, the following **21** supply disruption alerts and medicine supply notifications issued by DHSC between 6 April 2023 and 5 July 2023 were published on the CPE’s website by the Dispensing & Supply team:

| **Date** | Drug name |
| --- | --- |
| 5 July 2023 | [Testosterone (Tostran®) 2% gel](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-testosterone-tostran-2-gel/) |
| 29 June 2023 | [Paracetamol suppositories](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-paracetamol-suppositories/) |
| 29 June 2023 | [Diazepam 10mg/2.5ml rectal solution tubes](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-diazepam-10mg-2-5ml-rectal-solution-tubes/) |
| 27 June 2023 | [GLP-1 receptor agonists\* used in the management of type 2 diabetes](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-glp-1-receptor-agonists-used-in-the-management-of-type-2-diabetes/) |
| 14 June 2023 | [Oxcarbazepine (Trileptal® ) 300mg and 600mg tablets](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-oxcarbazepine-trileptal-300mg-and-600mg-tablets/) |
| 6 June 2023 | [Insulin isophane biphasic human 25/75 (Insuman® Comb 25) 100units/ml suspension for injection 3ml cartridge and pre-filled Solostar pens](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-insulin-isophane-biphasic-human-25-75-insuman-comb-25-100units-ml-suspension-for-injection-3ml-cartridge-and-pre-filled-solostar-pens/) |
| 5 June 2023 | [Clomifene (Clomid® ) 50mg tablets](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-clomifene-clomid-50mg-tablets/) |
| 1 June 2023 | [Ethinylestradiol 20microgram / Drospirenone 3mg (Eloine® ) tablets](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-ethinylestradiol-20microgram-drospirenone-3mg-eloine-tablets/) |
| 26 May 2023 | [Shortage of Pyridostigmine 60mg tablets](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/national-patient-safety-alert-shortage-of-pyridostigmine-60mg-tablets/) |
| 25 May 2023 | [Bromfenac (Yellox® ) 900 micrograms/ml eye drops](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-bromfenac-yellox-900-micrograms-ml-eye-drops/) |
| 25 May 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 – Updated](https://cpe.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/) |
| 24 May 2023 | [Tresiba (insulin degludec) FlexTouch 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-tresiba-insulin-degludec-flextouch-100units-ml-solution-for-injection-3ml-pre-filled-pens/) |
| 19 May 2023 | [Micronised Progesterone (Utrogestan ® ) 100mg capsules](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-micronised-progesterone-utrogestan-100mg-capsules/) |
| 18 May 2023 | [Glucagon 1mg powder for injection kit (GlucaGen® )](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-glucagon-1mg-powder-for-injection-kit-glucagen/) |
| 3 May 2023 | [Semaglutide (Ozempic® ) 1mg/0.74ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled disposable device – Updated](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-semaglutide-ozempic-1mg-0-74ml-solution-for-injection-3ml-pre-filled-disposable-device/) |
| 24 April 2023 | [Oxybutynin 5mg modified-release tablets](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-oxybutynin-5mg-modified-release-tablets/) |
| 13 April 2023 | [Estradiol (Estradot®) 75micrograms/24hours transdermal patches](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-estradiol-estradot-75micrograms-24hours-transdermal-patches/) |
| 12 April 2023 | [Alfuzosin 10mg modified release tablets](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-alfuzosin-10mg-modified-release-tablets/) |
| 6 April 2023 | [Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml and 250mg/5ml oral suspensions](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-clarithromycin-125mg-5ml-and-250mg-5ml-oral-suspensions/) |
| 6 April 2023 | [Estriol (Imvaggis® ) 0.03mg pessary](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-estriol-imvaggis-0-03mg-pessary/) |
| 6 April 2023 | [Oxycodone Hydrochloride 5mg/5ml Oral Solution](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-oxycodone-hydrochloride-5mg-5ml-oral-solution/) |

**DST webpage views**

Below is a table of the top 10 DST webpage visits by users between January 2023 – June 2023, inclusive:

| **Page** | **Page views** |
| --- | --- |
| [Price Concessions](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-supply/supply-chain/generic-shortages/)  | 396,087 |
| [Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs)](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-and-supply/supply-chain/ssps/) | 236,896 |
| [Controlled Drug Prescription Forms and Validity](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-supply/dispensing-controlled-drugs/controlled-drug-prescription-forms-and-validity/) | 42,566 |
| [Special Container Database](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-and-supply/dispensing-process/dispensing-a-prescription/special-containers/special-container-database/) | 42,513 |
| [DHSC announces rollout of HRT prescription prepayment certificate](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/dhsc-announces-rollout-of-hrt-prescription-prepayment-certificate/) | 29,450 |
| [Price concession archive](https://cpe.org.uk/funding-and-reimbursement/reimbursement/price-concessions/archive/) | 22,780 |
| [Report product over Drug Tariff price](https://cpe.org.uk/dispensing-and-supply/supply-chain/problems-with-obtaining-a-generic-medicine/) | 19,327 |
| [Medicine Shortages](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-supply/supply-chain/medicine-shortages/) | 18,845 |
| [Is this Prescription Form Valid?](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-supply/receiving-a-prescription/is-this-prescription-form-valid/) | 16,747 |
| [Who can prescribe what?](https://cpe.org.uk/dispensing-and-supply/prescription-processing/receiving-a-prescription/who-can-prescribe-what/) | 14,501 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Subject** | Statistics |
| **Date of meeting** | July 2023 |
| **Committee/Subcommittee** | FunCon |
| **Status** | Not confidential |
| **Overview** | Latest statistics for information |
| **Proposed action(s)** | No action required |
| **Author(s) of the paper** | CPE Pharmacy Funding Team |

**Appendix FCS 15/07/2023**

**Statistics**

**Dispensing items**

**Mar-23** total items was **97.6m** over 27 dispensing days (**3.6m** items per day). This is **4.2% more** items per day than the same month in the previous year.



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As of **Mar-23**, the proportion of all items that are EPS is **96.0%**. The proportion of items that are ERD is **14.4%**.

The latest rolling 12 month item volume as of **Mar-23** is **1,092.2m** items.

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**Category M**

The **Jul-23** Cat-M list will have an estimated impact of **+2 pence per item** on like-for-like reimbursement

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The cumulative total of like-for-like changes since 2019 is currently **+17 pence per item**

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The estimated packs per month in **Mar-23** was **91.3m**

**Reimbursement / remuneration**



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In **22/23 Q4** the average NIC/item (before clawback) was **£8.56**, and National AIV was **£9.48** (based on data to Mar-23)

In **22/23 Q4** the average fees per item was **£1.48** (based on data to Mar-23).

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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-640 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.



**Proposed action(s)**
No action required.