Funding and Contract Subcommittee Agenda

**Date: Wednesday 26th June 2024**

**Start time: 15:15pm**

**Location: Malmaison, Birmingham**

**Items are confidential where marked**

**Members:**Peter Cattee (Chairman), David Broome, Jas Heer, Tricia Kennerley, Prakash Patel, Adrian Price, Anil Sharma, Jay Patel

**In attendance:**Mike Dent, Jack Cresswell, Rob Thomas, Suraj Shah, Michael Digby, Daniel Fladvad, Sarah Welbourne

1. Welcome from Chair
2. Apologies for absence
3. Declarations or conflicts of interest
4. Subcommittee revised Terms of Reference (within the governance papers in the Committee agenda)
5. Minutes of last meeting **(Confidential Appendix FCS 01/06/24)** and matters arising
6. Workplan for 2024/25 **(Confidential Appendix FCS 02/06/24)**
7. Appointment of a Vice Chair
8. External members of the subcommittee  
   The new governance framework provides that members of subcommittees should have the combination of skills, experience, and knowledge to best carry out the subcommittee’s work; and that non-committee members may be appointed (as a minority of non-voting members) to bring additional expertise or insight where this is needed.

Accordingly, the subcommittee is asked to consider:

* First, if any additional expertise or insight is required for the subcommittee’s work; and
* Second, if so, whose name might be submitted (or what process may be followed to identify appropriate candidates) for the Governance and People subcommittee to consider?

The Committee appoints any external subcommittee members on the recommendation of the Governance and People subcommittee.

**Matters for discussion**

1. Update on Independent Economic Review **(Confidential Appendix FCS 03/06/24)**
2. Margin Survey improvements and validations **(Confidential Appendix FCS 04/06/24)**
3. Original pack dispensing update **(Confidential Appendix FCS 05/06/24)**

**Matters of report**

1. Pharmacy First Clinical Pathways consultations – February 2024 NHSBSA data **(Confidential Appendix FCS 06/06/24)**
2. Remuneration and reimbursement updates
3. CPCF outturn forecasts **(Confidential Appendix FCS 07/06/24)**
4. June 2024 Cat A **(Confidential Appendix FCS 08/06/24)**
5. Margin update **(Confidential Appendix FCS 09/06/24)**
6. Price concessions update **(Appendix FCS 10/06/24)**
7. General funding update **(Appendix FCS 11/06/24)**

1. Statistics **(Appendix FCS 12/06/24)**
2. Any other business

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Subject** | Price concessions update |
| **Date of meeting** | June 2024 |
| **Committee/Subcommittee** | FunCon |
| **Status** | Not confidential |
| **Overview** | Overview of monthly price concessions granted |
| **Proposed action(s)** | No action required |
| **Author(s) of the paper** | CPE Dispensing & Supply Team |

**Appendix 10/06/2024** **Not Confidential**

**Price Concessions update**

* Between April-June 2024, DHSC imposed a new approach to managing pharmacy purchase margin.
* Instead of recovering margin in the usual way by making adjustments to Category M, DHSC took the decision to recover **c£5.4m** per month this quarter by constraining price concession lines by either granting lower prices or refusing price concession applications.
* CPE wrote to DHSC on 18 April 2024 warning that imposed price concession process could adversely impact upon access to critical /potentially life-saving medicines and/or inadvertently increase the risk to patient safety.
* Following representations made by CPE, DHSC did not apply as much of a downwards price adjustment to several products.
* CPE and DHSC are closely monitoring the impact of the concession changes which were introduced by DHSC not making a downward adjustment of -£16.2m to Category M reimbursement prices between April and June 2024.

**June 2024**

* As of 18th June 2024, CPE has applied for **137** price concessions. Further applications may be submitted throughout the month based on reports received by CPE.

**May 2024**

* DHSC wrote to CPE on 24th May, 30th May and on 6th June with their final adjusted prices for May 2024.
  + CPE applied for a total of **147** price concessions in May 2024.
* **145** price concessions were granted by DHSC.
* Of these, **22** priceswere agreed between DHSC and CPE i.e. the Department did not apply any downward price adjustments to these products.
* **123** products had prices imposed as CPE was unable to agree to the final prices proposed by DHSC. DHSC’s initial adjusted prices for several products were improved following observations shared by CPE. Following publication of DHSC’s imposed prices, **4** products received a further upward price adjustment following representations made by CPE.
* **2** products were refused a price concession by DHSC i.e. no concessionary price imposed.
* On average, a **13%** reduction in prices was observed across all lines compared to CPEs proposed prices.
* Changes to reimbursement arrangements for medicines in Category A were recently introduced. **6 products (out of 7 applied for) in Category A** were granted a price concession in May. CPE will continue to monitor Category A lines affected by price reductions and apply for price concessions, where appropriate.

**April 2024**

* DHSC wrote to CPE on 26th April and on 1st May with their final adjusted prices for April 2024.
  + CPE applied for a total of **141** price concessions in April 2024.
  + **133** price concessions were granted by DHSC.
  + Of these, prices for only **11** products were agreed between DHSC and CPE i.e. the Department did not apply any downward price adjustments to these products.
  + **122** products had prices imposed following a downward adjustment by DHSC. DHSC’s initial adjusted prices for several products were improved following observations shared by CPE.
  + **5** products were refused a price concession by DHSC i.e. no concessionary price imposed.
  + Agreement was reached that price concessions were no longer required for **3** products.
* On average, a **10%** reduction in prices was observed across all lines compared to CPEs proposed prices.
* Changes to reimbursement arrangements for medicines in Category A were recently introduced. **7 products (out of 9 applied for) in Category A** were granted a price concession in April. CPE will continue to monitor Category A lines affected by price reductions and apply for price concessions, where appropriate.

**Price concessions summary graphs**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Subject** | General funding update |
| **Date of meeting** | June 2024 |
| **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 11/06/2024** **Not Confidential**

**General funding update**

The following items are included as matters of report:

1. **Drug Tariff & Reimbursement updates**

* Updated guidance on Schedule of Payments
* Products requiring reconstitution – pack size changes
* Price adjustment for Azathioprine 50mg/5ml oral suspension (February and March 2024)
* 21 products added to the Discount Not Deducted (DND) list between May 2024 - July 2024
* Drospirenone (Slynd®) 4mg tablets re-classified as a special container

1. **Regulatory updates**

* New legislation restricts the sale and supply of gonadotrophin-releasing hormone analogues
* Mounjaro®▼ (tirzepatide) 2.5 mg KwikPen® – shelf-life extension
* End of antiviral medicine prescribing for 2023/24 influenza season

1. **Supply updates (including SSPs)**

* Updates to SSPs
* Active and expired SSPs
* Market movements with implications for supply

1. **Dispensing and Supply team communications**

* Promoting NHS prescription prepayment certificates
* Top tips to maximise dispensing income
* Funding & Reimbursement Shorts
* NHSBSA ‘Hints & Tips’ – Issue 55
* Dispensing and Supply webpage views

1. **Drug Tariff & Reimbursement updates**

Updated guidance on the Schedule of Payments

The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) has updated its guidance on ['Understanding your Schedule of Payments'](https://cpe.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=028eecda9f&e=1e545c123a).

Pharmacy owners have already received their new-look Schedule of Payments, which was updated following the introduction of the Pharmacy First service in February 2024. The NHSBSA recently revised its guidance document to provide pharmacy owners with a clearer understanding of their Schedule of Payments.

Click [here](https://cpe.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=70eb23fa18&e=1e545c123a) to view the full story.

Products requiring reconstitution – pack size changes

Following the changes to pack sizes for [Xarelto® (Rivaroxaban) 1mg/ml granules for oral suspension,](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/changes-to-xarelto-rivaroxaban-1mg-ml-granules-for-oral-suspension-pack-sizes/) **six**more products that require reconstitution had their pack sizes updated in the NHS dictionary of medicines and devices (dm+d) and the Drug Tariff from May 2024. This followed the identification by Community Pharmacy England of pack size listing discrepancies where the pack sizes previously listed did not represent the actual usable volumes after reconstitution as set out in their respective SmPCs.

Following representations made by Community Pharmacy England, the NHS dm+d Content Committee agreed that where an SmPC for an oral solution or oral suspension publishes both a reconstituted volume and a usable volume, and these are different, the pack size on dm+d will be based on the published usable volume.

The table below shows the six products listed in the dm+d and Drug Tariff with updated pack sizes based on the usable volumes.

| **Product** | **Previous pack size listing** | **New pack size listing based on actual usable volume after reconstitution (effective 1 May 2024)** | **Listed in the Drug Tariff** | **Special container (complete pack size)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CellCept® (Mycophenolate mofetil) 1g/5ml oral suspension** | 175ml | 160ml\* | Yes | Yes |
| **Revatio® (Sildenafil) 10mg/ml oral suspension** | 112ml | 90ml | Yes | Yes |
| **Sprycel® (Dasatinib) 10 mg/mL oral suspension  (Imported (Germany))** | 99ml | 90ml | No | Yes |
| **Tamiflu® (Oseltamivir) 6mg/ml oral suspension** | 65ml | 50ml | Yes | Yes |
| **Valcyte® (Valganciclovir) 50mg/ml oral solution** | 100ml | 88ml | Yes | Yes |
| **VFEND® (Voriconazole) 40mg/ml oral suspension** | 75ml | 70ml | Yes | Yes |

*\* Where a usable volume range is presented in the SmPC the lowest level of the usable volume will be the pack size published on dm+d and in the Drug Tariff, where applicable.*

Due to the lag in updating of prescribing systems to reflect these changes, pharmacies may continue to receive prescriptions for the older pack sizes. Until prescribing systems have updated and ‘mapped’ across new product codes (with updated pack sizes) by using the latest dm+d extract, pharmacy teams may need to seek clarity from the prescriber regarding the quantity required by the patient and request amendments to prescriptions, where appropriate.

Please note: All the affected products are classed as special containers and payment will continue to be based on special container rules. For example if 175ml (old pack size) of CellCept® is ordered on an NHS prescription, pharmacy owners will continue to be reimbursed for the complete pack size dispensed.

Price adjustment for Azathioprine 50mg/5ml oral suspension (February and March 2024)

A licensed version of Azathioprine 10mg/ml oral suspension sugar free (Jayempi® in 200ml size) was launched by Nova Laboratories Ltd in February 2024 with an NHS list price of £250.00. However, in February and March there was a listing for an unlicensed Azathioprine 50mg/5ml oral suspension in Part VIIIB of the Drug Tariff. Therefore, according to Drug Tariff rules, any generically written prescriptions for Azathioprine 10mg/1ml (or 50mg/5ml) oral suspension sugar free would be reimbursed according to the price listed in Part VIIIB of the February and March Drug Tariffs (£33.56 per 100ml and then 6p per every additional ml).

This led to concerns from pharmacy owners regarding the reimbursement risks for supplying the licensed product against a generically written prescription for Azathioprine 10mg/1ml (or 50mg/5ml) oral suspension sugar free.

To reflect the availability of the licensed product from February 2024, Community Pharmacy England made representations to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in March seeking an adjustment to the reimbursement price for Azathioprine oral suspension prescriptions dispensed in February and March 2024. DHSC agreed that prescriptions requesting [Azathioprine 50mg/5ml oral suspension (Special Order) submitted as dispensed in February and March 2024 will be reimbursed based on the endorsement.](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/drug-reimbursement-azathioprine-50mg5ml-oral-suspension) Prescriptions submitted as dispensed in February or March 2024 will be reimbursed as follows:

| **Product supplied and endorsed** | **How NHSBSA will reimburse prescriptions dispensed in February/March 2024** |
| --- | --- |
| Licensed product - Jayempi® 10mg/ml oral suspension 200ml | Pharmacies will be reimbursed for the licensed product Jayempi® 10mg/ml oral suspension 200ml in line with special container rules where applicable. |
| Unlicensed special - Azathioprine 50mg/5ml oral suspension | Pharmacies will be reimbursed based on the Part VIIIB price in the relevant months Drug Tariff (£33.56 per 100ml and then 6p per every additional ml). |
| No endorsement | Where there is no endorsement, NHSBSA will contact the pharmacy to establish what was supplied and reimburse accordingly. |

DHSC also agreed to the following changes from the April 2024 Drug Tariff:

* The addition of licensed Azathioprine 10mg/ml oral suspension sugar free (200ml) to Category C based on Jayempi®
* The deletion of unlicensed Azathioprine 50mg/5ml oral suspension from Part VIIIB

Please note: The oral solution formulation of Azathioprine 50mg/5ml will remain listed in Part VIIIB of the Drug Tariff and continue to be reimbursed as an unlicensed special.

21 products added to the Discount Not Deducted (DND) list between May 2024 - July 2024

Following applications made by CPE to the DHSC and the NHSBSA, a further **21 products** were added to the ‘Drugs for which Discount is Not Deducted’ (DND) list in the between May 2024 and June 2024. In the past three years, over **630 products** have been granted DND status following checks made by CPE.

**11 products** were added to DND list in the June 2024 Drug Tariff:

* Dabigatran etexilate 150mg granules sachets sugar free
* Dabigatran etexilate 110mg granules sachets sugar free
* Dabigatran etexilate 20mg granules sachets sugar free
* Dabigatran etexilate 40mg granules sachets sugar free
* Dabigatran etexilate 30mg granules sachets sugar free
* Dabigatran etexilate 50mg granules sachets sugar free
* D-mine Infset subcutaneous drug delivery device 80cm tubing 8mm needle 28 gauge
* D-mine Pen injection pen reusable for 3ml cartridge
* D-mine Pump Reservoir
* Levomepromazine 6.25mg tablets
* Potassium para-aminobenzoate 3g oral powder sachets

**10 products** wereadded to DND list in the May 2024 Drug Tariff:

* Dexcom One+ Sensor
* Levorol 6.25mg tablets
* Semaglutide 3mg tablets
* Semaglutide 7mg tablets
* Semaglutide 14mg tablets
* Tinzaparin sodium 10,000units/0.5ml solution for injection pre-filled syringes
* Tinzaparin sodium 14,000units/0.7ml solution for injection pre-filled syringes
* Tinzaparin sodium 18,000units/0.9ml solution for injection pre-filled syringes
* Tinzaparin sodium 20,000units/2ml solution for injection vials
* Tinzaparin sodium 40,000units/2ml solution for injection vials

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/).

Drospirenone (Slynd®) 4mg tablets re-classified as a special container

Following representations from Community Pharmacy England, the DHSC re-determined the special container status of **Drospirenone (Slynd®) 4mg tablets**.The June 2024 [Drug Tariff](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-07/Drug%20Tariff%20August%202022.pdf) was updated to reflect the change to special container status as it meets the relevant criteria as set out in Part II Clause 10B of the Drug Tariff**.** The product has been re-classified as a special container at sub-pack level (sub-pack size of 28)**.**

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 | 183 | 47 |
| **Viscous external preparations\*** | 895 | 160 | 144 | 16 |
| **Packaged in a container from which it is not practicable to dispense exact quantity\*** | 3029 | 505 | 405 | 100 |
| **Total** | 4,193 | 895 | 732 | 163 |

*\**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 nearly 900 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.

1. **Regulatory updates**

New legislation restricts the sale and supply of gonadotrophin-releasing hormone analogues

Before Parliament was dissolved, the government introduced regulations to restrict the prescribing and supply of puberty-suppressing hormones.  This follows the Cass Review into gender identity services.

[New restrictions on puberty blockers – GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-restrictions-on-puberty-blockers)

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) cascaded NHS England information on the new regulations to pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy owners to make them aware of the restrictions.

[New legislation restricting the sale and supply of gonadotrophin-releasing hormone analogues | General Pharmaceutical Council (pharmacyregulation.org)](https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/about-us/news-and-updates/new-legislation-restricting-sale-and-supply-gonadotrophin-releasing-hormone-analogues)

There are two main aspects to the restrictions. The first relates to private prescriptions and took effect Monday, 3 June. The second affects NHS prescriptions and took effect on 26 June.

It is important to note that pharmacies in Great Britain are no longer be able to dispense new private prescriptions, dated on or after 3 June 2024 for GnRH analogues from the EEA or Switzerland for anyone under 18 years old. Full guidance for pharmacy teams is available in the NHS England information.

[New Government restrictions on use of Puberty Suppressing Hormones (Puberty Blockers); Information for prescribers and pharmacists/dispensing doctors | NHS England](https://mcusercontent.com/2a9eeb21f465e0931a30e5d65/files/38317a24-e578-a1c0-6e98-69eff9ca4104/New_Government_restrictions_on_use_of_Puberty_Suppressing_Hormones.pdf)

Mounjaro®▼ (tirzepatide) 2.5 mg KwikPen® – shelf-life extension

Eli Lilly and Company (Lilly) in agreement with the Medicines and Healthcare product Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has announced an extension to the shelf-life of Mounjaro®▼ (tirzepatide) 2.5mg KwikPen® from 9 months to 14 months for the following batches:

| **Product** | **Batch No.** | **Displayed/Printed Expiry Date** | **New Expiry Date** | **Dear Patient Letter link** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Mounjaro® 2.5mg KwikPen® solution for injection in prefilled pen | D712074 | 05-2024 | 10-2024 | [Mounjaro®-2.5mg-KwikPen®\_Patient-Letter-1\_D712074.pdf](https://cpe.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Mounjaro%C2%AE-2.5mg-KwikPen%C2%AE_Patient-Letter-1_D712074.pdf) |
| Mounjaro® 2.5mg KwikPen® solution for injection in prefilled pen | D720751 D720957 | 09-2024 | 02-2025 | [Mounjaro®-2.5mg-KwikPen®\_Patient-Letter-2\_D720751\_D720957.pdf](https://cpe.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Mounjaro%C2%AE-2.5mg-KwikPen%C2%AE_Patient-Letter-2_D720751_D720957.pdf) |

The affected Mounjaro® packs within these batches, are not re-labelled, but inserted into a sealed clear plastic bag with a letter advising the patients to follow the new expiry date. Please note this is applicable to the specified batches only, any other batches should continue to be used as normal. Additional information can be found in the ‘[Dear HCP Letter](https://cpe.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Mounjaro%C2%AE-2.5mg-KwikPen%C2%AE_DHPC.pdf)‘ and the ‘[Pharmacy FAQ Document](https://cpe.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/GB_Mounjaro_BSV-Implementation_Pharmacy-FAQ-Document_Apr24_PP-TR-GB-0476.pdf)‘ produced by Eli Lily to support pharmacy teams.

Eli Lily said ‘*There are no product quality, safety or efficacy concerns related to the affected Mounjaro® 2.5mg KwikPen® batches. If needed, please reassure patients and caregivers that their medication can be taken and will continue to work safely and as intended until the end of the new expiry date*.’

This medicine is subject to additional monitoring. This includes any possible side effects not listed in the package leaflet. This will allow quick identification of new safety information. Patients can help by reporting any side effects they experience using MHRA Yellow Card reporting form [www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard).

For more information or to report adverse event information among patients taking Mounjaro®, please contact Lilly Medical Information department at: 01256 315000 or via email: [ukmedinfo@lilly.com](mailto:ukmedinfo@lilly.com).

End of antiviral medicine prescribing for 2023/24 influenza season

In light of surveillance data indicating that circulation of influenza in the community returned to baseline levels, the Department of Health and Social Care published an alert 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=103250)

1. **Supply updates**

Updates to SSPs

**New SSPs**

* [SSP05](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps)3 for Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension was re-issued on 22 May 2024. This SSP is set to expire on to 21 June 2024. For every 5ml of 125mg/5ml oral suspension, SSP053 allows pharmacists to supply 2.5ml of 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 re-issued on 22 May 2024. This SSP is set to expire on to 21 June 2024. For every 5ml of Clarithromycin 250mg/5ml oral suspension, SSP054 allows pharmacists to supply 1 x Clarithromycin 250mg tablet.
* [SSP0](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps)60 for Creon® 10000 gastro-resistant capsules was issued on 24 May 2024. This SSP is set to expire on 22 November 2024. SSP060 provides that where supplies are available, but the prescription is for more than one month’s supply the total quantity supplied under this protocol is to be equivalent to one months’ supply of Creon® 10000 gastro-resistant capsules.
* [SSP0](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps)61 for Creon® 25000 gastro-resistant capsules was issued on 24 May 2024. This SSP is set to expire on 22 November 2024. SSP061 provides that where supplies are available, but the prescription is for more than one months’ supply the total quantity supplied under this protocol is to be equivalent to one months’ supply of Creon® 25000 gastro-resistant capsules.

**Expired SSPs**

* SSP059 for Monomil® XL 60mg tablets expired on 7 June 2024

Active SSPs

**Active SSPs**

| **SSP** | **Expiry Date** | **Supporting Information** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [SSP061: Creon® 25000 gastro-resistant capsules](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2024-05/SSP061%20Creon%2025000%20restriction%20FINAL%2023052024%20-%20Signed.pdf) | 22 November 2024 | [SSP061 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2024-05/Endorsement%20Guidance%20SSP061%20Creon%2025000%20restriction%20FINAL%2024052024.pdf) |
| [SSP060: Creon® 10000 gastro-resistant capsules](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2024-05/SSP060%20Creon%2010000%20restriction%20FINAL%2023052024%20-%20Signed.pdf) | 22 November 2024 | [SSP060 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2024-05/Endorsement%20Guidance%20SSP060%20Creon%2010000%20restriction%20FINAL%2024052024.pdf) |
| [SSP054: Clarithromycin 250mg/5ml oral suspension](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 21 June 2024 | [SSP054 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2023-04/Endorsement%20guidance%20Clarithromycin%20250mg-5ml%20oral%20susp.pdf) |
| [SSP053: Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 21 June 2024 | [SSP053 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2023-04/Endorsement%20guidance%20Clarithromycin%20125mg-5ml%20oral%20susp.pdf) |

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

Market movements with implications for supply

To assist pharmacy teams, the following **22** supply disruption alerts and medicine supply notifications issued by DHSC between 03 April 2024 and 12 June 2024 were published on the CPE’s website by the Dispensing & Supply team:

| **Date** | **Drug name** |
| --- | --- |
| 12 June 2024 | [Erythromycin 250mg gastro-resistant tablets](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-erythromycin-250mg-gastro-resistant-tablets/) |
| 6 June 2024 | [Quetiapine 150mg, 200mg, 300mg tablets](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-quetiapine-150mg-200mg-300mg-tablets/) |
| 5 June 2024 | [Imiquimod (Aldara®) 5% cream and podophyllotoxin (Warticon®) 0.5% solution and 0.15% cream](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-imiquimod-aldara-5-cream-and-podophyllotoxin-warticon-0-5-solution-and-0-15-cream/) |
| 5 June 2024 | [Co-trimoxazole 40mg/200mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-co-trimoxazole-40mg-200mg-5ml-oral-suspension-sugar-free-2/) |
| 5 June 2024 | [Clomethiazole 192mg capsules](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-clomethiazole-192mg-capsules/) |
| 29 May 2024 | [Somatropin (NutropinAq® ) 10mg/2ml solution for injection cartridges Somatropin (Humatrope® ) 6mg, 12mg and 24mg powder and solvent for solution for injection cartridges](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-somatropin-nutropinaq-10mg-2ml-solution-for-injection-cartridges-somatropin-humatrope-6mg-12mg-and-24mg-powder-and-solvent-for-solution-for-injection-c/) |
| 29 May 2024 | [Memantine (Valios® ) 10mg and 20mg orodispersible tablets sugar free](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-memantine-valios-10mg-and-20mg-orodispersible-tablets-sugar-free/) |
| 24 May 2024 | [Nortriptyline 10mg/5ml and 25mg/5ml oral solution sugar-free](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-nortriptyline-10mg-5ml-and-25mg-5ml-oral-solution-sugar-free/) |
| 24 May 2024 | [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-2/) |
| 24 May 2024 | [Salbutamol 2.5mg/2.5ml and 5mg/2.5ml nebuliser liquid unit dose vials](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-salbutamol-2-5mg-2-5ml-and-5mg-2-5ml-nebuliser-liquid-unit-dose-vials-2/) |
| 20 May 2024 | [Humulin® S (insulin soluble human) 100units/ml solution for injection 10ml vials](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-humulin-s-insulin-soluble-human-100units-ml-solution-for-injection-10ml-vials/) |
| 16 May 2024 | [Tegretol® (carbamazepine) 100mg/5ml liquid](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-tegretol-carbamazepine-100mg-5ml-liquid/) |
| 9 May 2024 | [Pancreatic enzyme replacement therapy (PERT)](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-pancreatic-enzyme-replacement-therapy-pert/) |
| 9 May 2024 | [Humalog® (insulin lispro) 100units/ml solution for injection 10ml vials](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-humalog-insulin-lispro-100units-ml-solution-for-injection-10ml-vials/) |
| 8 May 2024 | [Lisdexamfetamine (Elvanse®) capsules](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-lisdexamfetamine-elvanse-capsules-2/) |
| 8 May 2024 | [Sulfadiazine silver (Flamazine® ) 1% cream](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-sulfadiazine-silver-flamazine-1-cream/) |
| 8 May 2024 | [Pabrinex® (Vitamins B and C) Intravenous and Intramuscular High Potency solution for injection ampoules – Updated](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-pabrinex-vitamins-b-and-c-intravenous-and-intramuscular-high-potency-solution-for-injection-ampoules/) |
| 26 April 2024 | [Mesalazine (Asacol® ) 400mg MR gastro-resistant tablets](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-mesalazine-asacol-400mg-mr-gastro-resistant-tablets/) |
| 26 April 2024 | [Daktacort® (hydrocortisone 1% / miconazole 2%) cream](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-daktacort-hydrocortisone-1-miconazole-2-cream/) |
| 23 April 2024 | [Naloxegol (Moventig® ) 12.5mg and 25mg tablets](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-naloxegol-moventig-12-5mg-and-25mg-tablets/) |
| 23 April 2024 | [Cefalexin 125mg/5ml and 250mg/5ml oral suspension](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-cefalexin-125mg-5ml-and-250mg-5ml-oral-suspension/) |
| 23 April 2024 | [Carbamazepine 100mg and 200mg tablets](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-carbamazepine-100mg-and-200mg-tablets/) |
| 23 April 2024 | [Phenobarbital 15mg tablets (Accord)](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-phenobarbital-15mg-tablets-accord/) |

1. **Dispensing and Supply team communications**

Promoting NHS prescription prepayment certificates

A recent report published by [Healthwatch England](https://www.healthwatch.co.uk/sites/healthwatch.co.uk/files/Pharmacy%20what%20people%20want.pdf) highlighted that the cost-of-living pressures affected people’s ability to afford prescription and over-the-counter medicines.  [Freedom of Information data](https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/news/2022/02/more-than-1million-people-could-have-saved-p40--yr-on-nhs-prescr/) from 2021, found that over a million people could have saved money through NHS prescription prepayment certificates (PPCs). Therefore, Healthwatch England is calling for improvements to NHS PPCs by:

* raising patient awareness through national campaigns and the wider rollout of NHS posters
* better signage of prepayment options should be provided in pharmacies
* funding for pharmacies selling PPCs should also be provided by the NHSBSA

Pharmacy teams can help to raise awareness by displaying posters in their pharmacy to remind patients about the savings they can make with PPCs. A [HC20 poster](https://media.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/resources?SearchString=HC20) for standard PPCs and [HRT PPC posters](https://media.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/resources?page=1&currentFilter=ppc), can be ordered from the [Primary Care Support England (PCSE) online portal](http://pcse.england.nhs.uk/). Pharmacies will need to login to their PCSE Online accounts and place the order for these posters. For any enquiries, the PCSE Customer Support Centre can be contacted via telephone on 0333 014 2884.

Community Pharmacy England also designed downloadable and print ready prepayment certificate posters for display in community pharmacies.

* [PPC Poster 2024/25 (colour)](https://cpe.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/PPC-Poster-2024-Final-Colour.pdf)
* [PPC Poster 2024/25 (black and white)](https://cpe.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/PPC-Poster-2024-May-Final-BW.pdf)

Pharmacy teams should note that selling of any PPCs is unfunded activity and it is optional for pharmacies to sell any PPCs in the pharmacy. To ensure patients select the PPC that is right for them, we recommend directing patients to the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) website to complete their PPC purchase.

A standard (3 or 12-month) PPC can be purchased from [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/help-nhs-prescriptioncosts/nhs-prescription-prepayment-certificate-ppc](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/help-nhs-prescription-costs/nhs-prescription-prepayment-certificate-ppc) or telephone 0300 330 1341. Patients can purchase a HRT PPC online at [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hrt-ppc](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hrt-ppc) or telephone 0300 330 2089.

However, 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 pharmacies currently registered to sell standard PPCs no longer need to log into a separate online system to process the PPCs sold through the pharmacy, these can now be recorded on MYS using the tab ‘Sell a Prescription Payment Certificate (PPC)’.

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).

Further information for patients can be found [here](https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/help-with-health-costs/save-money-with-a-prescription-prepayment-certificate-ppc/).

Top tips to maximise dispensing income

Community Pharmacy England’s Dispensing and Supply team has prepared a [new factsheet](https://cpe.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Top-tips-to-maximise-dispensing-income.pdf) to help pharmacy owners maximise their income from dispensing. The factsheet included top tips to help pharmacy contractors maximise their income or reduce losses when:

* Dispensing prescriptions
* Ordering medicines
* Endorsing prescriptions
* Submitting claims/prescriptions for payment (including end-of-month MYS declaration)
* Reconciling payments against claims submitted

The factsheet also links to a wealth of resources available on the Community Pharmacy England website for more information on specific topic areas which can be accessed as needed.

[Read our new factsheet](https://cpe.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Top-tips-to-maximise-dispensing-income.pdf)

Funding & Reimbursement Shorts

Community Pharmacy England has launched a new series of short videos to provide pharmacy owners and their teams with more information on common funding and reimbursement topics. In the videos, our in-house Drug Tariff and funding experts will offer practical advice on topics such as:

* prescription endorsement and submission requirements
* common dispensing errors identified by our prescription audit team and advice on how to avoid these errors
* price concessions
* drug reimbursement reforms
* how the margins survey works and other wider funding issues

The short videos are supplemented by resources produced by the Dispensing and Supply team including the recent [‘Top tips to maximise dispensing income’ factsheet](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/top-tips-to-maximise-dispensing-income/), which includes a list checklist for pharmacy staff to follow to dispensing processes.

**Video 1: Supplementary product information**

The first video in this series presented by Mitesh Bhudia and Gemma Hackett from our Dispensing and Supply Team, looks at handling prescriptions containing supplementary product information. Watch the supplementary product information video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uss7cur8aIU&embeds_referring_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fcpe.org.uk%2F&feature=emb_imp_woyt>

Further information and resources (as referenced in the guide):

* [Dealing with product information within the dose area](https://cpe.org.uk/digital-and-technology/eps/endorsing-and-submission/problem-with-product-information-in-dosage-instructions/)
* [Dealing with EPS product info in dose area factsheet](https://cpe.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/PSNC-IT-factsheet-Problem-with-EPS-product-info-in-dose-instruction-area.pdf) (pdf)

Upcoming videos include claiming for Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) correctly, and recent improvement to the price concession system. If you have any suggestions for future topics please email [ds.team@cpe.org.uk](mailto:ds.team@cpe.org.uk) with your suggestions.

NHSBSA ‘Hints & Tips’ – Issue 55

The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) produces a quarterly newsletter called “Hints & Tips for dispensing contractors”. The latest edition (Issue 55) contains some useful information and advice on:

* [NHS prescription charges from 1 May 2024](https://mailchi.mp/nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hints-and-tips-issue-1880925?e=77f6957b92#NHS%20prescription%20charges)
* [Patients reminded to renew their HRT PPC](https://mailchi.mp/nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hints-and-tips-issue-1880925?e=77f6957b92#Patients%20reminded%20HRT%20PPC)
* [Contractors reminded to use correct prescribing codes](https://mailchi.mp/nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hints-and-tips-issue-1880925?e=77f6957b92#Contractors%20prescribing%20codes)
* [FP10 NHS prescription forms: memantine](https://mailchi.mp/nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hints-and-tips-issue-1880925?e=77f6957b92#FP10%20NHS%20prescription%20forms%20-%20Memantine)
* [Digital HC2 certificates](https://mailchi.mp/nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hints-and-tips-issue-1880925?e=77f6957b92#Digital%20HC2%20certificates)
* [Real Time Exemption Checking](https://mailchi.mp/nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hints-and-tips-issue-1880925?e=77f6957b92#Real%20Time%20Exemption%20Checking)

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).

Dispensing and supply webpage views

* For information on topics relating to dispensing and supply, below is a table of the top 10 webpage visits by users between 1 April 2024 – 31 May 2024, inclusive:

| **Page** | **Page views** |
| --- | --- |
| [Price Concessions](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-supply/supply-chain/generic-shortages/) | 78,593 |
| [Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs)](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-and-supply/supply-chain/ssps/) | 23,657 |
| [Prescription charge to rise to £9.90 on 1 May 2024](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/prescription-charge-to-rise-to-9-90-on-1-may-2024/) | 17,582 |
| [Special Container Database](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-and-supply/dispensing-process/dispensing-a-prescription/special-containers/special-container-database/) | 13,439 |
| [Controlled Drug Prescription Forms and Validity](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-supply/dispensing-controlled-drugs/controlled-drug-prescription-forms-and-validity/) | 11,580 |
| [Is this Prescription Form Valid?](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-supply/receiving-a-prescription/is-this-prescription-form-valid/) | 5,492 |
| [Medicine Supply Notification: Pabrinex® (Vitamins B and C) Intravenous and Intramuscular High Potency solution for injection ampoules](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-pabrinex-vitamins-b-and-c-intravenous-and-intramuscular-high-potency-solution-for-injection-ampoules/) | 5,408 |
| [March 2024 Price Concessions 3rd and Final Update](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/march-2024-price-concessions-3rd-update/) | 5,306 |
| [DHSC’s April 2024 Price Concessions – Final Update](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/dhscs-april-2024-price-concessions-final-update/) | 5,015 |
| [Price concession archive](https://cpe.org.uk/funding-and-reimbursement/reimbursement/price-concessions/archive/) | 4,868 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Subject** | Statistics |
| **Date of meeting** | June 2024 |
| **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 12/06/2024 Not Confidential**

**Statistics**

**Dispensing items**

**Mar-24** total items was **94.1m** over 25 dispensing days (**3.8m** items per day). This is **4.1% more** items per day than the same month in the previous year.

A graph with red line and black line

Description automatically generated

**A graph with a line going up

Description automatically generated**

The latest rolling 12 month item volume as of **Mar-24** is **1,126m** items. This is **3.1% more** items than the rolling 12 month total in the same month the previous year.

**A graph with a red line and blue line

Description automatically generated**

As of **Mar-24**, the proportion of all items that are EPS is **96.4%**. The proportion of items that are ERD is **14.8%**.

**Category M**

**A graph with blue lines and a line

Description automatically generated**

The **Apr-24** Cat-M list will have an estimated impact of **-7 pence per item** on like-for-like reimbursement

**A graph with a line and a blue line

Description automatically generated**

The cumulative total of like-for-like changes since 2019 is currently **-35 pence per item**

**A graph of a cat

Description automatically generated**

The estimated packs per month in **Jan-24** was **91.6m**

**Reimbursement / remuneration**



**A graph of a number of blue bars

Description automatically generated**

In **23/24 Q4** the average NIC/item (before clawback) was **£8.17**, and National AIV was **£9.19** (based on data to Mar-24).

In **23/24 Q4** the average fees per item was **£1.51** (based on data to Mar-24).

**A graph of a number of people

Description automatically generated with medium confidence**

**Services**

**A graph of a service delivery

Description automatically generated**

**A graph of a bar chart

Description automatically generated with medium confidence**

**A graph of a service

Description automatically generated with medium confidence**

**Pharmacy contract numbers**

A waterfall chart of net change in pharmacy numbers per month indicates a cumulative drop of c-1,082 in the total number of pharmacy contracts since the announcement of the funding cuts.

A graph of numbers and numbers

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 graph of a line

Description automatically generated