Funding and Contract Subcommittee Agenda

**Date: Wednesday 11th September 2024**

**Start time: 3pm**

**Location: Hosier Lane, London**

**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, Alisha Khatri and Mitesh Bhudia

1. Welcome from Chair
2. Apologies for absence
3. Declarations or conflicts of interest
4. Minutes of last meeting **(Confidential Appendix FCS 01/09/24)** and matters arising

**Matters for discussion**

1. Reimbursement reforms – DHSC’s package of 3 proposals **(Confidential Appendix FCS 02/09/24)**
2. Containers and consumables allowance **(Confidential Appendix FCS 03/09/24)**

**Matters of report**

1. Remuneration and reimbursement updates
2. CPCF outturn forecasts **(Confidential Appendix FCS 04/09/24)**
3. July 2024 Cat M **(Confidential Appendix FCS 05/09/24)**
4. September 2024 Cat A **(Confidential Appendix FCS 06/09/24)**
5. Margin update **(Confidential Appendix FCS 07/09/24)**
6. Price concessions update **(Appendix FCS 08/09/24)**
7. General funding update **(Appendix FCS 09/09/24)**

1. Statistics **(Appendix FCS 10/09/24)**
2. Any other business

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Subject** | Price concessions update |
| **Date of meeting** | September 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 08/09/2024**

**Price concessions update**

**September 2024**

* As of 3rd September 2024, CPE has applied for **90** price concessions. Further applications may be submitted throughout the month based on reports received by CPE.

**August 2024**

* Reductions were made to the August Drug Tariff after DHSC identified an error in their calculation of July 2024 Category M prices.
* Despite CPE’s strong opposition to any downward adjustments, DHSC imposed the changes with the aim of reducing reimbursement by circa **£9m** per month.
* DHSC wrote to CPE on 31st August with their final adjusted prices for August 2024.
	+ CPE applied for a total of **158** price concessions in August 2024.
* **151** price concessions were granted by DHSC.
* Of these, **107** priceswere agreed between DHSC and CPE.
* **44** products had prices imposed as CPE was unable to agree to the final prices proposed by DHSC.
* **4** products were refused a price concession by DHSC i.e. no concessionary price imposed.
* **3** products where we agreed no concessionary price was needed
* There were **4** price concessions from July that rolled over into August 2024
	+ For **1** of these products, CPE sought an upward adjustment following price increases reported in August. DHSC granted an upward adjustment for this product.
* **7** products (out of **9 applied for) in Category A** were granted a price concession in August. Following recent changes to reimbursement arrangements for medicines in Category A, CPE will continue to monitor Category A lines affected by price reductions and apply for price concessions, where appropriate.

**July 2024**

* Due to the election period, DHSC was unable to continue making any further downward margin adjustments or constrain concessions between July and September. Therefore, July Category M prices did not include any adjustment for margin, however the prices still reflected movements in the underlying market (i.e. movements in buying prices of medicines). These are systematic and not subject to negotiation.
* DHSC wrote to CPE on 1stAugust with their final prices for July 2024.
	+ CPE applied for a total of **170** price concessions in July 2024.
* **151** price concessions were granted by DHSC.
* Of these, **91** priceswere agreed between DHSC and CPE.
* **60** products had prices imposed as CPE was unable to agree to the final prices proposed by DHSC.
* **11** products were refused a price concession by DHSC i.e. no concessionary price imposed.
* **10** products (out of **12** applied for) in **Category A** were granted a price concession in July. Following recent changes to reimbursement arrangements for medicines in Category A, CPE will continue to monitor Category A lines affected by price reductions and apply for price concessions, where appropriate.

**June 2024**

* 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 18th 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.
* DHSC wrote to CPE on 25th June 28th June and 2nd July with their final adjusted prices for June 2024.
	+ CPE applied for a total of **154** price concessions in June 2024.
	+ **151** price concessions were granted by DHSC.
	+ Of these, prices for only **22** products were agreed between DHSC and CPE i.e. the Department did not apply any downward price adjustments to these products.
	+ **129** 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.
	+ **3** products were refused a price concession by DHSC i.e. no concessionary price imposed.
* On average, a **14%** reduction in prices was observed across all lines compared to CPEs proposed prices.
* **6 products (out of 6 applied for) in Category A** were granted a price concession in June. Following recent changes to reimbursement arrangements for medicines in Category A, CPE will continue to monitor Category A lines affected by price reductions and apply for price concessions, where appropriate.
* DHSC estimate that by limiting price concessions in June 2024, a **circa £5.6m** saving in cost pressure was made by not making the downward adjustment of £16.2m to Category M reimbursement prices.

**Price concessions summary graphs**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Subject** | General funding update |
| **Date of meeting** | September 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 09/09/2024** **Not Confidential**

**General funding update**

The following items are included as matters of report:

1. **Drug Tariff & Reimbursement updates**
* August 2024 Category M adjustments imposed by DHSC
* Rivaroxaban tablets reimbursement price changes from September 2024
* EpiPen® and Jext® – reimbursement price changes for July 2024
* Retrospective reimbursement price adjustments for Aptamil® products
* Latuda® (lurasidone) tablets – retrospective reimbursement price adjustment for April 2024
* July 2024 reimbursement price change for Naltrexone 50mg tablets
* 9 products added to the Discount Not Deducted (DND) list between July 2024 - August 2024
* EPS rolls out for Detained Estate prescribers
* 3 medicines deleted from HRT PPC list from 1 August 2024
1. **Regulatory updates**
* Regulations restricting the sale and supply of gonadotrophin-releasing hormone analogues
1. **Supply updates (including SSPs)**
* Shelf-life extension of Lagevrio® (molnupiravir) 200 mg hard capsules
* Updates to SSPs
* Market movements with implications for supply
1. **Dispensing and Supply team communications**
* Funding & Reimbursement Shorts: Price concessions
* NHSBSA ‘Hints & Tips’ – Issue 56
* Dispensing and Supply webpage views
1. **Drug Tariff & Reimbursement updates**

August 2024 Category M adjustments imposed by DHSC

Adjustments were made to Category M prices from August 2024, despite clear opposition from Community Pharmacy England.

DHSC made an error in the calculation of July 2024 Category M prices and informed Community Pharmacy England that they intend to make reductions in the August Drug Tariff.

Based on erroneous calculations, in July DHSC implemented an increase in Category M reimbursement of approximately +£21m per quarter.

Based on corrected calculations, DHSC stated that the change in Category M reimbursement should have been a reduction of -£6m per quarter.

Therefore, the erroneous increase in July would result in £27m overall extra reimbursement over the July quarter (i.e. circa £9m per month).

NB. These amounts relate to systematic changes due to underlying movements in medicine buying prices in the market, they are not changes related to margin adjustments or the margin survey of independent community pharmacies.

DHSC consulted with Community Pharmacy England about how to address this error, and our firm position was that DHSC should not seek to enact any mid-quarter correction in Category M prices. The impacts of the July reimbursement increase would be picked up and accounted for by the Margin Survey in due course.

DHSC informed Community Pharmacy England that they enacted price adjustments in Category M prices in August, with the aim of reducing reimbursement by circa £9m per month. Additionally, the extra reimbursement delivered in July was taken back via further Drug Tariff price reductions between October 2024 to March 2025.

Community Pharmacy England has been very clear that downward adjustments are unaffordable and will further put the viability of the sector at risk.  This decision has been imposed (forced through) despite Community Pharmacy England’s serious risk warnings and strong opposition.  We have written to the Minister to make this clear.

Click [here](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/category-m-adjustments-to-occur-in-august-2024-imposed-by-dhsc-with-community-pharmacy-englands-opposition/) to view the full story.

Rivaroxaban tablets reimbursement price changes from September 2024

Generic Rivaroxaban tablets have been available in the market for several months following the patent expiry of Xarelto® tablets. Consequently, the selling prices of generic Rivaroxaban tablets have fallen sharply when compared to the NHS list prices of the brand originator Xarelto®. Therefore, from **September 2024 Drug Tariff**:

* **Rivaroxaban 2.5mg tablets from Category C to Category A**(Price decrease from £50.40 to £16.87)
* **Rivaroxaban 10mg tablets from Category C to Category A** (Price decrease from £54.00 to £9.40)
* **Rivaroxaban 15mg tablets from Category C to Category M**(Price decrease from £50.40 to £6.75)
* **Rivaroxaban 20mg tablets from Category C to Category M**(Price decrease from £50.40 to £6.75)

Prices of medicines in Category A and M change every quarter in the following months: January, April, July, and October. However, the changes above were made a month earlier (outside the usual quarterly cycle).

Reimbursement prices for these products will be determined the usual price-setting approach based on information obtained from suppliers under the Health Service Products (Provision and Disclosure of Information).

In August 2024, CPE requested advance notice is given to help contractors review and manage their stockholding of Rivaroxaban tablets ahead of the Drug Tariff changes in September. From September 2024, for prescriptions prescribed by brand (Xarelto®), pharmacy contractors will continue to be reimbursed based on the dm+d list price for Xarelto®. If prescribed generically as Rivaroxaban, pharmacy contractors will be reimbursed the Drug Tariff Part VIIIA Category A or M prices.

EpiPen® and Jext® – reimbursement price changes for July 2024

Following representations from Community Pharmacy England on behalf of community pharmacy owners, DHSC [**redetermined the reimbursement prices**](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/drug-reimbursement-price-changes) for **EpiPen® and Jext® (adrenaline) preparations dispensed in July 2024**.

On 1 July 2024, there was an increase in the NHS list prices of EpiPen® and Jext® preparations manufactured by Viatris and ALK-Abello Ltd, respectively. However, under the current [**price change mechanism**](https://cpe.org.uk/funding-and-reimbursement/reimbursement/how-the-price-change-mechanism-works/), the new list prices would only apply to reimbursement for NHS prescriptions dispensed from August 2024.

To avoid pharmacy owners dispensing these products at a loss, DHSC granted the following reimbursement price changes for the dispensing month of July. The price adjustments below applied to both branded and generically written prescriptions.

| **Generic product** | **Brand product** | **Pack size** | **Previous****reimbursement price (July 2024 Drug Tariff)** | **Redetermined reimbursement price (effective from July 2024)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Adrenaline (base) 150micrograms/0.15ml (1 in 1,000) solution for injection pre-filled disposable devices | EpiPen® 300micrograms/0.3ml (1 in 1,000) solution for injection auto-injectors | 1 | £53.80 | £60.69 |
| Adrenaline (base) 150micrograms/0.15ml (1 in 1,000) solution for injection pre-filled disposable devices | EpiPen® 300micrograms/0.3ml (1 in 1,000) solution for injection auto-injectors | 2 | £107.60 | £121.38 |
| Adrenaline (base) 150micrograms/0.3ml (1 in 2,000) solution for injection pre-filled disposable devices | EpiPen Jr.®150micrograms/0.3ml (1 in 2,000) solution for injection auto-injectors | 1 | £53.80 | £60.69 |
| Adrenaline (base) 150micrograms/0.3ml (1 in 2,000) solution for injection pre-filled disposable devices | EpiPen Jr.®150micrograms/0.3ml (1 in 2,000) solution for injection auto-injectors | 2 | £107.60 | £121.38 |
| Adrenaline (base) 150micrograms/0.15ml (1 in 1,000) solution for injection pre-filled disposable devices | Jext® 150micrograms/0.15ml (1 in 1,000) solution for injection auto-injectors | 1 | £53.80 | £60.69 |
| Adrenaline (base) 150micrograms/0.3ml (1 in 2,000) solution for injection pre-filled disposable devices | Jext® 300 micrograms/0.3ml (1 in 1,000) solution for injection auto-injectors | 1 | £53.80 | £60.69 |

Retrospective reimbursement price adjustments for Aptamil® products

Following representations made by Community Pharmacy England on behalf of community pharmacy owners, DHSC [retrospectively adjusted the reimbursement prices](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/drug-reimbursement-price-changes) of certain Aptamil® preparations dispensed between January to April 2024.

The list prices of some Aptamil® preparations manufactured by Nutricia Ltd had increased but these changes were not reflected on the NHS dictionary of medicines and devices (dm+d). Therefore, due to out-of-date pricing information held on NHS dm+d, Community Pharmacy England sought upward [retrospective pricing adjustments](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/drug-reimbursement-price-changes) for the following Aptamil® products dispensed from January to April 2024:

| **Product** | **Pack size** | **Previous NHS list price** | **Retrospectively adjusted reimbursement price (effective from January 2024)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Aptamil® Anti-Reflux powder | 800g | £14.29 | £16.08 |
| Aptamil® Comfort milk | 800g | £14.29 | £16.08 |
| Aptamil® First milk powder | 200ml | £0.92 | £1.06 |
| Aptamil® Follow On milk | 200ml | £0.92 | £1.06 |
| Aptamil® Lactose Free powder | 400g | £7.70 | £8.39 |

Any pricing adjustments for these products will appear in the **June 2024 Schedule of Payments (with a payment date of 30 August 2024)**. The payments will be displayed as ‘**Adjustment drugs**‘ and ‘**Adjustment fees**’ (if applicable). The adjustments for products listed above are displayed shown as a combined total.

Community Pharmacy England raised concerns with DHSC about the accuracy of certain product and pricing information held on dm+d. Community Pharmacy England is in discussion with DHSC regarding improvements to the data quality and checking processes for dm+d database, managed by NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA).

Latuda®(lurasidone) tablets – retrospective reimbursement price adjustment for April 2024

Following representations made by Community Pharmacy England on behalf of community pharmacy owners, DHSC [**retrospectively adjusted the reimbursement prices**](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/drug-reimbursement-price-changes) for all strengths of Latuda® (lurasidone) tablets dispensed in April 2024.

On 1 April 2024, there was an increase in the NHS list prices of Latuda® (all strengths) manufactured by CNX Therapeutics Ltd. Under the current [**price change mechanism**](https://cpe.org.uk/funding-and-reimbursement/reimbursement/how-the-price-change-mechanism-works/), the new list prices would only apply to reimbursement for NHS prescriptions dispensed from May 2024 (see table below).

To avoid pharmacy owners dispensing these products at a loss, DHSC granted the following reimbursement price changes for the dispensing month of April 2024. The retrospective price adjustments applied to both branded and generically written prescriptions for lurasidone tablets.

Any pricing adjustments for these products will appear in the **June 2024 Schedule of Payments (with a payment date of 30 August 2024)**. The payments will be displayed as ‘**Adjustment drugs**‘ and ‘**Adjustment fees**’ (if applicable). The adjustments for products listed above are displayed shown as a combined total.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Generic name** | **Brand name** | **Pack size** | **Previous reimbursement price** | **Retrospectively adjusted reimbursement price (effective from April 2024)** |
| Lurasidone 18.5mg tablets | Latuda® 18.5mg tablets | 28 | £37.60 | £80.00 |
| Lurasidone 37mg tablets | Latuda® 37mg tablets | 28 | £37.60 | £80.00 |
| Lurasidone 74mg tablets | Latuda® 74mg tablets | 28 | £37.60 | £80.00 |

July 2024 reimbursement price change for Naltrexone 50mg tablets

DHSC redetermined the July 2024 reimbursement price for **Naltrexone 50mg tablets (28)** listed in Category A of the [**Drug Tariff**](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/drug-tariff).

The basic price for this product should have read **£82.15** instead of £774.23 as published in the July Drug Tariff. This pricing issue was caused by a data error identified by DHSC.

Payment for July’s prescriptions reflected the above re-determination and hence was not as per the published Drug Tariff. The new reimbursement price of **£82.15** was corrected in the August and September Drug Tariffs.

9 products added to the Discount Not Deducted (DND) list between July 2024 - August 2024

Following applications made by Community Pharmacy England to the DHSC and the NHSBSA, a further **9 products** were added to the ‘Drugs for which Discount is Not Deducted’ (DND) list in the between July and August 2024. In the past three years, over **640 products** have been granted DND status following checks made by Community Pharmacy England.

**8 products** wereadded to DND list in the August 2024 Drug Tariff:

* Aquipta 10mg tablets
* Aquipta 60mg tablets
* Gilenya 0.25mg capsules
* Mayzent 0.25mg tablets
* Mayzent 2mg tablets
* Rinvoq 30mg modified-release tablets
* Rinvoq 45mg modified-release tablets
* Tafinlar 75mg capsules

**1 product** wasadded to DND list in the July 2024 Drug Tariff:

* Sodium valproate 750mg modified-release granules sachets 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/).

EPS rolls out for Detained Estate prescribers

NHS England announced that from September 2024, the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) has been extended to Detained Estate health services in England. This extension allows prescribers working in prisons to issue EPS ‘To Take Out’ (TTO) and urgent prescriptions electronically to community pharmacies, removing the need for use of paper FP10 forms.

Most people will be released from prison with a supply of their current medications, so they may not need to collect their EPS prescription immediately upon release. They are also likely to collect their prescription from a pharmacy far from the prison, as many people are detained a long distance from their homes.

**Handling these prescriptions**

These prescriptions are expected to be relatively rarely seen in pharmacies; however, any pharmacy might receive one of these prescriptions.

According to the NHSBSA, there are currently about 6,000 of these types of FP10s issued annually by prisons, but the availability of EPS may influence future use of that route to supply medicines to people being discharged from prison. [**Health and justice statistics**](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/offender-management-statistics-quarterly-april-to-june-2023/offender-management-statistics-quarterly-april-to-june-2023#releases) indicate that tens of thousands of people are released from prison each year.

Here are the key points for pharmacy teams to consider when handling these prescriptions:

*Non-nominated prescriptions*

These prescriptions might be [**non-nominated EPS prescriptions**](https://cpe.org.uk/digital-and-technology/eps/non-nominated-eps/) that need to be retrieved from the NHS Spine. Due to the uncertainty of where individuals will live after release, prescribers may choose to issue non-nominated prescriptions instead of using one-off or standard nominated prescriptions.

*Tokens*

Some individuals might have a token or prescription barcode/number for their prescription, either provided to them by the prescriber, or accessible via the NHS App or their online NHS website account. However, many patients may not have a token due to difficulties faced by prison prescribers in providing this, and because patients may not have access to phones or computers to download their EPS token to present it to the pharmacy. In such cases, the prescription will need to be located by the pharmacy team using patient information, such their name, date of birth and the address of the prison from which they were released.

*Free-of-charge status*

An HM prison-issued FP10 or FP10MDA prescription which is issued to a person who has been released from prison is exempt from NHS prescription charges. The prescriber address on the prescription is used to confirm that the prescription is exempt from charges; the prescription must have ‘HMP’ stated in the practice address. In these instances, the patient does not need to complete a signed declaration on the back of the form. EPS exemption category 0015 is used for processing HMP prisoners on release. Note: some PMR supplier systems may label exemption category 0015 in an unclear way, such as ‘*patient does not have to pay a prescription charge’*. Exemption category 0015 should be used exclusively for processing HMP prescriptions for people released from the prison.

*Pharmacy queries to the prescriber*

If a pharmacy needs to contact the prison prescriber, they should [**look-up the prison contact details**](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/prisons-in-england-and-wales) and then phone the main prison switchboard and ask to be connected to the healthcare team. These teams generally operate during core hours from 08:00 to 17:00, Monday to Friday, with some availability outside these hours.

**Rollout plans**
The rollout of EPS in the detained estate will be phased. Insights from early users will help shape the later stages of the rollout plan.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Rollout plans** | **Target dates** |
| Two pilot prescriber sites | September 2024 |
| Further five early implementer prescriber sites | November 2024 |
| Rollout will then be on a regional basis to further prescribers | November 2024 to March 2025 |

The plans and dates may be subject to change.

**Support and escalations**

Queries about the rollout of EPS in the detained estate can be emailed to: **necsu.hjis@nhs.net**.

If there is a technical issue or a concern with an EPS prescription, use the usual [**EPS escalation route factsheet**](https://cpe.org.uk/contract-it/psnc-briefings-pharmacy-contract-and-it/psnc-briefing-02416-reporting-eps-issues-april-2016/) to ensure a proper resolution.

3 medicines deleted from HRT PPC list from 1 August 2024

Following their discontinuation, the following three HRT medicines were deleted from the list of medicines covered by the HRT PPC on 1 August 2024:

* **Bedol® 2mg tablets**
* **Climanor® 5mg tablets**
* **Clinorette® tablets**

As Climanor® 5mg tablets is discontinued, the generic **Medroxyprogesterone 5mg tablets** is also deleted from the HRT PPC list as this product is no longer available as a licensed HRT medicine (note: the brand **Provera®5mg** tablets is NOT a licensed HRT medicine and therefore is not covered by the HRT PPC).

Pharmacy staff were advised to check the NHSBSA website for[**an up-to-date list of HRT medicines covered by the HRT PPC**](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/help-nhs-prescription-costs/nhs-hormone-replacement-therapy-prescription-prepayment-certificate-hrt-ppc/medicines-covered-hrt-ppc). The list of HRT medicines covered by the HRT PPC will also be updated in Part XVI of the [**August 2024 Drug Tariff**](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/drug-tariff).

Community Pharmacy England has updated its [**HRT PPC medicines list**](https://cpe.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/HRT-Drugs-List-Aug24-DT.pdf) to reflect the changes taking effect from August 2024. Please note: you may need to hard refresh (press Ctrl+R) to refer to the most up-to-date version.

The HRT medicines list has been compiled following consultation with the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), NHSBSA and the NHS England Menopause Clinical Reference Group. The list will be updated as new HRT medicines licensed for the treatment of menopause become available in the UK or as existing HRT medicines are discontinued from the UK market. If a product that meets the criteria is missing from the HRT medicines list please contact **dhsc.publicenquiries@dhsc.gov.uk**.

For further information on HRT PPCs please refer to CPE’s [**HRT PPC**](https://cpe.org.uk/dispensing-and-supply/prescription-processing/receiving-a-prescription/patient-charges/hrt-prescription-prepayment-certificates-ppcs/) hub page.

1. **Regulatory updates**

Regulations restricting the sale and supply of gonadotrophin-releasing hormone analogues

On 29 May 2024, [regulations](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2024/727/made) came into force to restrict the prescribing and supply of puberty suppressing hormones / gonadotrophin releasing hormone (GnRH) analogues to children and young people under 18 for the purposes of gender dysphoria / gender incongruence.

During the period of the emergency ban (extended to 26 November 2024), no new patients under 18 are allowed to begin use of these medicines for the purposes of puberty suppression in those experiencing gender dysphoria/incongruence, outside of designated specialist NHS services. The Secretary of State has expressed the intention to make the ban permanent, but can only do this by following a procedure set out in the Medicines Act 1968, including a formal consultation.

The government also extended the order to cover Northern Ireland, following an agreement from the Northern Ireland Executive that came into effect from 27 August 2024.

Children and young people under 18 already established on these medicines for these purposes can continue to receive these medicines from a UK-registered prescriber, but generally the prescriptions must be endorsed ‘SLS’ by the prescriber.

Children and young people under 18 already established on these medicines for these purposes **could not** access these medicines using a prescription issued after 3 June 2024 by an EEA-or Swiss-registered prescriber.

Further information and FAQs can be found on our [**Gonadotrophin Releasing Hormone (GnRH) Prescription Regulations**](https://cpe.org.uk/quality-and-regulations/other-regulatory-and-terms-of-service-requirments/gonadotrophin-releasing-hormone-gnrh-prescription-regulations/) webpage.

1. **Supply updates**

Shelf-life extension of Lagevrio® (molnupiravir) 200 mg hard capsules

MSD UK in agreement with the Medicines and Healthcare product Regulatory Agency (MHRA) announced an extension to the shelf-life of certain batches of Lagevrio® (molnupiravir) 200 mg hard capsules beyond the labelled expiry date by 6, 12 or 18 months. This extension was based on supportive stability data for Lagevrio® which was approved by the MHRA.

Patients can continue to use the affected batches safely until their extended use by dates listed below. The expiry date extension does not apply to batches of Lagevrio® not listed in the table below.

| **Batch number** | **Labelled Expiry Date****(end of the month)** | **Extended Use by Date****(end of the month)** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| U035832, U035834, U035826, U035830, U035829, U035827 | December 2022 | June 2024 |
| CKFWW, CKFWT, CKFXB, U035259, U035349, U035403, U035575, U035580, U035584, U035723, U036097, U036227, U036303, U036096, U036063 | January 2023 | July 2024 |
| U038932, U038928, U039514, U038931, U039699, U038933, W003017, W001762, W002196, W002251, W002252, W003006, W003015, W001492, W001742, W001757, W001763, W002191, W002192, W002200, W002201, W002209, W003055, W003012 | February 2023 | August 2024 |
| U040071, U040082, U040308, U040300, W001764, U040316, W002566, W002577, W002582, W003430, W003111, W003431 | March 2023 | September 2024 |
| 2644400, 2620967, 2620965, 2620959, 2644399, W003434, W005862, W005866, W005869, W005872, W005873, W006344, W006347, W006351, W006360, W006363, W006353, W006354, W006793, W006365, W006369, W006358, W006794, W006945 | April 2023 | October 2024 |
| 2620971, 2620975, 2620973, 2620969, 2620977, 2698245, 2678932, 2698247 | May 2023 | November 2024 |
| W011781, W012460 | August 2023 | August 2024 |
| W007695, W008022, W007683, W007684, W007693 | October 2023 | October 2024 |
| W012394, W012403, W012408, W012538, W012585, W017279, 2698249 | November 2023 | November 2024 |
| 2689837, 2689839, 2689841, 2689845, 2689847, 2689851, 2843352, 2689855 | December 2023 | December 2024 |
| W031114, W031120, W031127 | August 2024 | February 2025 |
| W032935, W032936, W032940, W033244, W033245, W033246, W032594, W032598, W032911, W032934 | September 2024 | March 2025 |

Affected batches of Lagevrio® will be co-packed with a [**Dear Patient letter**](https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/rmm/3119/Document) to notify patients of the extended use by dates.  There is no need to remove the Patient Letter before passing the medicine to the patient.  A hard copy of the [**Direct Healthcare Professional (DHCP) letter**](https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/dhpc/2575/Document) will also be included with pharmacy deliveries. While the extension applies to all affected batches, pharmacies are not expected to print additional Dear Patient Letters for stock already on the shelves.

Pharmacy teams should tell patients and caregivers about the extended use by date of the specified batches of Lagevrio®.

Lagevrio® is subject to additional monitoring identified by the black triangle ▼. Please continue to report suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) to the MHRA through the Yellow Card Scheme see [**www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard**](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard).

Updates to SSPs

**Active SSPs**

| **SSP** | **Expiry Date** | **Supporting Information** | **Product substitution and/or quantity restriction** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [SSP072: Cefalexin 500mg tablets](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 27 September 2024 | [SSP072 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2024-08/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP072%20Cefalexin%20500mg%20tablets.pdf) | Cefalexin 500mg capsules |
| [SSP071: Ramipril 2.5mg tablets](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps) | 15 November 2024 | [SSP071 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2024-08/Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP071%20Ramipril%202.5mg%20tablets.pdf) | Ramipril 2.5mg capsules |
| [SSP070 Quetiapine 300mg tablets substitution and restriction](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2024-07/SSP070%20Quetiapine%20300%20substitution%20and%20restriction%20SIGNED.pdf) | 13 September 2024 | [SSP070 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2024-07/11072024%20Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP070%20Quetiapine%20300mg%20substitution%20and%20restriction.pdf) | 3 x 100mg quetiapine tabletsOR2 x 100mg and 2 x 50mg quetiapine tabletsANDRestrict to one months’ supply |
| [SSP069 Quetiapine 300mg tablets restriction](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2024-07/SSP069%20Quetiapine%20300%20restriction%20SIGNED.pdf) | 13 September 2024 | [SSP069 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2024-07/11072024%20Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP069%20Quetiapine%20300mg%20restriction.pdf) | Restricted to one months’ supply |
| [SSP068 Quetiapine 300mg tablets substitution](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2024-07/SSP068%20Quetiapine%20300%20substitution%2002072024%20SIGNED.pdf) | 13 September 2024 | [SSP068 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2024-07/11072024%20Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP068%20Quetiapine%20300mg%20substitution.pdf) | 3 x 100mg quetiapine tabletsOR2 x 100mg and 2 x 50mg quetiapine tablets |
| [SSP067 Quetiapine 200mg tablets substitution and restriction](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2024-07/SSP067%20Quetiapine%20200%20substitution%20and%20restriction%20%20SIGNED.pdf) | 13 September 2024 | [SSP067 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2024-07/11072024%20Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP067%20Quetiapine%20200mg%20substitution%20and%20restriction.pdf) | 2 x 100mg quetiapine tablets OR 1 x 100mg and 2 x 50mg quetiapine tablets OR 4 x 50mg quetiapine tabletsANDRestricted to one months’ supply |
| [SSP066 Quetiapine 200mg tablets restriction](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2024-07/SSP066%20Quetiapine%20200%20restriction%20SIGNED.pdf) | 13 September 2024 | [SSP066 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2024-07/11072024%20Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP066%20Quetiapine%20200mg%20restriction.pdf) | Restricted to one months’ supply |
| [SSP065 Quetiapine 200mg tablets substitution](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2024-07/SSP065%20Quetiapine%20200%20substitution%20SIGNED.pdf) | 13 September 2024 | [SSP065 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2024-07/11072024%20Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP065%20Quetiapine%20200mg%20substitution.pdf) | 2 x 100mg quetiapine tablets OR 1 x 100mg and 2 x 50mg quetiapine tablets OR 4 x 50mg quetiapine tablets |
| [SSP064 Quetiapine 150mg tablets substitution and restriction](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2024-07/SSP064%20Quetiapine%20150%20substitution%20and%20restriction%20SIGNED.pdf) | 13 September 2024 | [SSP064 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2024-07/11072024%20Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP064%20Quetiapine%20150mg%20substitution%20and%20restriction.pdf) | 1 x 100mg and 1 x 50mg quetiapine tablet OR 3 x 50mg quetiapine tablets OR 2 x 50mg and 2 x 25mg quetiapine tabletsANDRestricted to one months’ supply |
| [SSP063 Quetiapine 150mg tablets restriction](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2024-07/SSP063%20Quetiapine%20150%20restriction%20SIGNED.pdf) | 13 September 2024 | [SSP063 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2024-07/11072024%20Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP063%20Quetiapine%20150mg%20restriction.pdf) | Restricted to one months’ supply |
| [SSP062 Quetiapine 150mg tablets substitution](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2024-07/SSP062%20Quetiapine%20150%20substitution%20SIGNED.pdf) | 13 September 2024 | [SSP062 guide](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2024-07/11072024%20Endorsement%20guidance%20SSP062%20Quetiapine%20150mg%20substitution.pdf) | 1 x 100mg and 1 x 50mg quetiapine tablet OR 3 x 50mg quetiapine tablets OR 2 x 50mg and 2 x 25mg quetiapine tablets |
| [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) | Restricted to one months’ supply |
| [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) | Restricted to one months’ supply |

**Expired SSPs**

* SSP054 for Clarithromycin 250mg/5ml oral suspension expired on 19 July 2024
* SSP053 for Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension expired on 19 July 2024

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 **17** supply disruption alerts and medicine supply notifications issued by DHSC between 18 June 2024 and 31 August 2024 were published on the CPE’s website by the Dispensing & Supply team:

| **Date** | **Drug name** |
| --- | --- |
| 28 August 2024 | [Naloxone (Nyxoid®) 1.8mg/0.1ml nasal spray unit dose](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-naloxone-nyxoid-1-8mg-0-1ml-nasal-spray-unit-dose/) |
| 27 August 2024 | [Isosorbide mononitrate 60mg modified-release tablets and capsules](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-isosorbide-mononitrate-60mg-modified-release-tablets-and-capsules/) |
| 23 August 2024 | [Creon® Micro Pancreatin 60.12mg gastro-resistant granules](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-creon-micro-pancreatin-60-12mg-gastro-resistant-granules/) |
| 22 August 2024 | [Norethisterone (Noriday® ) 350microgram tablets](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-norethisterone-noriday-350microgram-tablets-2/) |
| 22 August 2024 | [Naltrexone 50mg tablets](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-naltrexone-50mg-tablets/) |
| 22 August 2024 | [Methylphenidate prolonged-release tablets](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-methylphenidate-prolonged-release-tablets/) |
| 7 August 2024 | [Cefalexin 500mg tablets](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-cefalexin-500mg-tablets/) |
| 6 August 2024 | [Ramipril 2.5mg tablets](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-ramipril-2-5mg-tablets/) |
| 1 August 2024 | [Desmopressin (DDAVP®) 4 micrograms/1ml solution for injection ampoules](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-desmopressin-ddavp-4-micrograms-1ml-solution-for-injection-ampoules/) |
| 26 July 2024 | [Shortage of Kay-Cee-L® (potassium chloride 375mg/5ml) (potassium chloride 5mmol/5ml) syrup](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/national-patient-safety-alert-shortage-of-kay-cee-l-potassium-chloride-375mg-5ml-potassium-chloride-5mmol-5ml-syrup/) |
| 18 July 2024 | [Carbamazepine 100mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free (Accord)](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-carbamazepine-100mg-5ml-oral-suspension-sugar-free-accord/) |
| 17 July 2024 | [Quetiapine 150mg, 200mg, 300mg tablets – Updated](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-quetiapine-150mg-200mg-300mg-tablets/) |
| 16 July 2024 | [Ipratropium bromide 250micrograms/1ml and 500micrograms/2ml nebuliser liquid unit dose vials](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-ipratropium-bromide-250micrograms-1ml-and-500micrograms-2ml-nebuliser-liquid-unit-dose-vials/) |
| 1 July 2024 | [Disopyramide (Rythmodan Retard® ) 250mg modified-release tablets and disopyramide (Rythmodan® ) 100mg capsules. Updated](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-disopyramide-rythmodan-retard-250mg-modified-release-tablets-and-disopyramide-rythmodan-100mg-capsules/) |
| 19 June 2024 | [Flixotide® (fluticasone) 125micrograms/dose and 250micrograms/dose Evohaler®](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-flixotide-fluticasone-125micrograms-dose-and-250micrograms-dose-evohaler/) |
| 18 June 2024 | [Triamcinolone acetonide suspension for injection vials (Kenalog® 40mg/1ml and Adcortyl® 50mg/5ml)](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-triamcinolone-acetonide-suspension-for-injection-vials-kenalog-40mg-1ml-and-adcortyl-50mg-5ml/) |
| 18 June 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-2/) |

1. **Dispensing and Supply team communications**

Funding & Reimbursement Shorts: Price concessions

A video explaining the recent improvements to the price concessions process is now available for community pharmacy teams to watch.

Part of Community Pharmacy England’s ‘Funding & Reimbursement Shorts’ series, the new video guides viewers through recent changes to the price concession process. The regular series of short videos, launched to enhance understanding of common funding and reimbursement topics, is also supplemented by numerous resources such as the overarching [**‘Top tips to maximise dispensing income’ factsheet**](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/top-tips-to-maximise-dispensing-income/).

In the latest video, Mitesh Bhudia and Sarah Welbourne from our Dispensing and Supply Team discussed ongoing work to improve the system for pharmacy owners and the changes implemented by the DHSC, including:

* Price concession lines becoming Zero Discount;
* Rolling over of price concessions; and
* Retrospective top-up payments.

Click [here](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/funding-reimbursement-shorts-price-concessionshttps%3A/cpe.org.uk/our-news/funding-reimbursement-shorts-price-concessions/) to view the full story and watch the video.

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

[**Price Concessions**](https://cpe.org.uk/funding-and-reimbursement/reimbursement/price-concessions/)

[**How the price concession system operates**](https://cpe.org.uk/briefings/psnc-briefing-023-22-how-the-price-concession-system-operates/)

[**Medicines Supply and Price Concessions Resources**](https://cpe.org.uk/funding-and-reimbursement/reimbursement/price-concessions/medicines-supply-and-price-concessions-resources/)

The Dispensing & Supply team also previously produced a video on Handling prescriptions with supplementary product information which can be viewed [here](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/funding-reimbursement-shorts-how-to-handle-prescriptions-with-supplementary-product-information/).

NHSBSA ‘Hints & Tips’ – Issue 56

The NHSBSA produces a quarterly newsletter called “Hints & Tips for dispensing contractors”. The latest edition (Issue 56) contains some useful information and advice on:

* [Prescription switching – reduce the chances of it happening to you](https://mailchi.mp/nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hints-and-tips-issue-1881432#Prescriptionswitching)
* [NHS Prescription Prepayment Certificates (PPC)](https://mailchi.mp/nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hints-and-tips-issue-1881432#NHSPPC)
* [Medicines covered by the Hormone Replacement Therapy Prescription Prepayment Certificate (HRT PPC)](https://mailchi.mp/nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hints-and-tips-issue-1881432#MedicinescoveredbHRTPPC)
* [Claiming free NHS prescriptions](https://mailchi.mp/nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hints-and-tips-issue-1881432#ClaimingfreeNHSprescriptions)
* [Submitting electronic prescription service (EPS) tokens](https://mailchi.mp/nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hints-and-tips-issue-1881432#SubmittingEPStokens)
* [2024/25 Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework (CPAF) questionnaire](https://mailchi.mp/nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hints-and-tips-issue-1881432#202425CPAFquestionnaire)
* [End of month batch submissions](https://mailchi.mp/nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hints-and-tips-issue-1881432#Endofmonthbatchsubmissions)

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 June 2024 – 31 August 2024, inclusive:

| **Page** | **Page views** |
| --- | --- |
| [Price Concessions](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-supply/supply-chain/generic-shortages/)  | 200,058 |
| [Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs)](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-and-supply/supply-chain/ssps/) | 29,931 |
| [Special Container Database](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-and-supply/dispensing-process/dispensing-a-prescription/special-containers/special-container-database/) | 22,363 |
| [Dispensing Controlled Drugs](https://cpe.org.uk/dispensing-and-supply/dispensing-process/dispensing-controlled-drugs/) | 19,227 |
| [Price concession archive](https://cpe.org.uk/funding-and-reimbursement/reimbursement/price-concessions/archive/) | 17,398 |
| [Report product over Drug Tariff price](https://cpe.org.uk/dispensing-and-supply/supply-chain/problems-with-obtaining-a-generic-medicine/) | 12,337 |
| [National Patient Safety Alert: Shortage of Pancreatic enzyme replacement therapy (PERT)](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/national-patient-safety-alert-shortage-of-pancreatic-enzyme-replacement-therapy-pert/) | 8,729 |
| [Is this Prescription Form Valid?](https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-supply/receiving-a-prescription/is-this-prescription-form-valid/) | 8,099 |
| [Medicine Supply Notification: Pancreatic enzyme replacement therapy (PERT)](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-pancreatic-enzyme-replacement-therapy-pert/) | 7,834 |
| [Medicine Supply Notification: Lisdexamfetamine (Elvanse®) capsules](https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/medicine-supply-notification-lisdexamfetamine-elvanse-capsules-2/) | 6,430 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Subject** | Statistics |
| **Date of meeting** | September 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 10/09/2024 Not Confidential**

**Statistics**

**Dispensing items**

**May-24** total items was **99.5m** over 25 dispensing days (**4.0m** items per day). This is **2.1% more** items per day than the same month in the previous year.



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The latest rolling 12 month item volume as of **May-24** is **1,142m** items. This is **3.1% more** items than the rolling 12 month total in the same month the previous year.

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As of **Jun-24**, the proportion of all items that are EPS is **96.6%**. The proportion of items that are ERD is **15.0%**.

**Category M**

The **Jul-24** Cat-M list will have an estimated impact of **+8 pence per item** on like-for-like reimbursement. The **Aug-24** correction will have an estimated impact of **-11 pence per item** on like-for-like reimbursement.

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The cumulative total of like-for-like changes since 2019 is currently **-38 pence per item**

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The estimated packs per month in **Apr-24** was **89.4m**

**Reimbursement**



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In **24/25 Q1** the average NIC/item (before clawback) was **£8.17**, and National AIV was **£9.15** (based on data to May-24).

In **24/25 Q1** the average fees per item was **£1.48** (based on data to May-24).

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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-1,226 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.

