



Factsheet: How many prescription charges apply?

This factsheet explains what prescription charges are payable for different types of items dispensed against NHS prescriptions with examples of prescriptions where a single or no charge would apply and cases where multiple charges are payable.

When does only one prescription charge apply?

Unless the patient is exempt from prescription charges, **a single prescription charge is payable** where:

| Items ordered on one prescription form | Examples where only 1 prescription charge is payable |
|---|---|
| The same drug or preparation is supplied in more than one container | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chloramphenicol 0.5% eye drops 10ml x 2 |
| Different strengths of the same drug | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allopurinol 200mg tablets Allopurinol 300mg tablets |
| More than one Part IX appliance of the same type (other than elastic compression hosiery) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Melolin® dressing 10cm x 10cm Melolin® dressing 20cm x 10cm Only 1 charge is payable for supplying different sizes of the same dressing type ordered on the same form |
| A set of parts making up a complete appliance is supplied | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Altipress 40 Ulcer Kit® medical stocking and compression liner |
| Drugs supplied in powder form with a diluent supplied within the same pack | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GlucaGen Hypokit® 1mg powder and solvent for solution for injection |
| A drug that supplied with a dropper, throat brush or vaginal applicator | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estriol 0.01% cream supplied with a vaginal applicator |
| Several flavours of the same preparation are supplied | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure Plus Fibre® liquid supplied in assorted flavours for example, banana, strawberry and vanilla. |
| A drug supplied in instalments using a blue FP10MDA prescription form | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Methadone 1mg/1ml oral solution sugar free supplied in daily instalments |

When do multiple prescription charge apply?

For patients who pay for their prescriptions, **more than one prescription charge is payable** if the following items are ordered on the same NHS prescription form (excluding any free-of-charge items for e.g. contraceptives or FS-endorsed items):



| Items ordered on one prescription form | Examples where multiple prescription charges are payable | Number of prescription charges payable |
|--|---|--|
| Different drugs, types of dressings or appliances are supplied | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atorvastatin 20mg tablets Ramipril 10mg tablets <p>Two different drugs ordered on same prescription</p> | 2 charges |
| Different formulations or presentations of the same drug or preparation are supplied | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gliclazide 40mg tablets Gliclazide 60mg modified-release tablets <p>Two different formulations ordered on same prescription form</p> | 2 charges |
| Additional parts supplied together with a complete set of apparatus, or additional dressing(s) together with a dressing pack | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sterile dressing pack specification 10 365 Non Adherent dressing 10cm x 10cm Gloves disposable 100 gauge polythene <p>Additional gloves and dressings ordered with a dressing pack</p> | 3 charges |
| More than one piece of elastic compression hosiery is supplied including anklets, leggings, knee-caps, below-knee, above knee or thigh stockings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compression hosiery class I below knee stocking circular knit standard stock size x 4 stocking <p>See 'Charges for elastic compression hosiery section' below</p> | 4 charges |

Charges for elastic compression hosiery

Multiple prescription charges apply where **more than one piece** of elastic compression hosiery is supplied. Charges are calculated **per piece**, not per pair. This applies to anklets, kneecaps, below-knee, above-knee and thigh-length stockings.

| Items ordered on one prescription form | Dispensed items | Number of prescription charges payable |
|---|--------------------|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compression hosiery class I below knee stocking circular knit standard stock size x 2 stocking | 2 pieces (1 pair) | 2 charges |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compression hosiery class I thigh length stocking circular knit standard stock size x 4 stocking | 4 pieces (2 pairs) | 4 charges |

Each piece of elastic compression hosiery attracts one prescription charge. Where two pairs of elastic hosiery are supplied (four pieces), four prescription charges apply.



Charges for lymphoedema garments

Only **one prescription charge** is payable where one or more of the **same** lymphoedema base garment is supplied. A single charge also applies to prescriptions ordering different sizes, lengths or colours of the same lymphoedema base garment on one form.

Multiple charges (and fees) apply where different base garments are supplied (e.g. open toe and closed toe, or below-knee and thigh-length), or where the same garment is supplied in different compression classes (e.g. Class II and Class III).

Note: **If 2 devices are prescribed, the patient should be supplied with one pair.** This is the same for all elastic hosiery and lymphoedema products. If the garment cannot be split, such as tights or leggings, 2 pairs should be given against a prescription ordering 2 devices.

| Items ordered on one prescription form | Dispensed items | Number of prescription charges payable |
|---|------------------------|--|
| <p>One base garment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> duomed soft 2easy® class 2 (18–24mmHg) below-knee closed toe lymphoedema garment small Black x 2 device | 1 pair (2 devices) | 1 charge |
| <p>Different colours of the same base garment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> duomed soft 2easy® class 2 (18–24mmHg) below-knee closed toe lymphoedema garment small Black x 2 device <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> duomed soft 2easy® class 2 (18–24mmHg) below-knee closed toe lymphoedema garment small Sand x 2 device | 2 pairs (4 devices) | 1 charge <i>Where the same lymphoedema garment is supplied in different colours, one prescription charge applies as the base garment is the same.</i> |
| <p>Different base garments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> duomed soft 2easy® class 1 (14–17mmHg) below-knee closed toe lymphoedema garment small Sand x 2 devices <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> duomed soft 2easy® class 1 (14–17mmHg) anklet closed toe lymphoedema garment small Sand x 2 devices | 2 pairs (4 devices) | 2 charges <i>Where different lymphoedema garments are supplied (e.g. below-knee and anklet), one prescription charge applies to each type of base garment.</i> |

Optional extras/additional options

Some lymphoedema garments include optional extras or 'additional options'. These are classed as no charge items and therefore do not attract any additional prescription charges or fees; however, pharmacy owners still receive reimbursement for the cost of any additional options supplied.



Worked examples for applying charging rules for prescriptions that include multiple items or combination products

The examples below illustrate how many prescription charges apply for prescriptions with multiple items or components on the same form.

Different formulations or presentations of the same drug

| Items ordered on one prescription form | Examples where multiple prescription charges are payable | Number of prescription charges payable |
|---|---|--|
| Different formulations or presentations of the same drug supplied | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prednisolone 1mg tablets AND ▪ Prednisolone 2.5mg gastro-resistant tablets | <p>2 charges</p> <p><i>One prescription charge applies to each formulation / presentation i.e. standard and gastro-resistant tablets.</i></p> |

Items containing a drug and an appliance

| Items ordered on one prescription form | Examples where multiple prescription charges are payable | Number of prescription charges payable |
|---|--|--|
| Different drugs, types of dressings or appliances supplied; including those ordered with additional parts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ametop® 4% gel dispensing pack | <p>2 charges</p> <p><i>This product contains both a drug and an appliance (Ametop® 4% gel and vapour-permeable adhesive film dressing 6cm x 7cm). One prescription charge applies for the drug and one for the appliance in the pack.</i></p> |

Combination packs

| Items ordered on one prescription form | Examples where multiple prescription charges are payable | Number of prescription charges payable |
|---|---|--|
| Different drugs, types of dressings or appliances supplied; including those ordered with additional parts and certain combination packs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Canesten Combi® 500mg pessary and External 2% cream | <p>2 charges</p> <p><i>This pack contains the same drug in two different presentations or formulations; cream and pessary. One prescription charge applies to each presentation type even though both are included in the same packaging.</i></p> |



| Items ordered on one prescription form | Examples where multiple prescription charges are payable | Number of prescription charges payable |
|--|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evorel Sequi® patches | <p>2 charges</p> <p><i>This pack contains two different transdermal patches (Evorel 50® and Evorel Conti®) containing different active ingredients. As the pack contains two different medicines with different active ingredients, one prescription charge applies to each.</i></p> |

Information on prescription charges may also be viewed via the [Dictionary of Medicines and Devices \(dm+d\)](#) under the 'Reimbursement information' section for individual products, as shown in the image. This provides a useful indication of how many prescription charges an item will attract in practice.

Reimbursement information

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Discount not deducted indicator | Discount not deducted - automatic |
| Prescription charges | 2 |
| Dispensing fees | 2 |
| Special container | Special container |

More information on the number of prescription charges payable is set out in Clause 11 of Part XVI (Notes on Charges) of the Drug Tariff, with worked examples provided in paragraph 12.

Prescription Prepayment Certificates (PPCs)

Patients who pay for their prescriptions, including those prescribed items that attract multiple prescription charges, may benefit from purchasing a Prescription Prepayment Certificate (PPC) or, where applicable, a Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) PPC.

PPCs offer savings for those needing four or more prescription items in 3 months or more than 12 prescription items in one year.

Further information is available on website, see: [Prescription charge refund procedure](#) and [HRT Prescription Prepayment Certificates \(HRT PPCs\)](#).

Prescription charge refunds (FP57)

If a patient is unsure whether they pay for their prescriptions or are entitled to free prescriptions, pharmacy teams should advise the patient to pay for their prescription and provide them with an FP57 refund receipt and advice form with information on how to claim a refund at a later date.

Further information is available on website, see: [Prescription charge refund procedure](#) and [What does the patient pay?](#).



Appendix 1: Examples of products that attract multiple charges

The table below provides examples of commonly dispensed products that attract multiple prescription charges.

| Examples of products that attract <u>TWO</u> prescription charges | Examples of products that attract <u>THREE</u> prescription charges |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ametop 4% gel[®] dispensing pack ▪ Canesten Combi[®] 500mg Soft Gel pessary and External 2% cream ▪ Canesten Combi[®] 500mg pessary and External 2% cream ▪ Canesten Thrush Duo[®] 150mg Oral capsules & External 2% cream ▪ Coban 2 Lite[®] multi-layer compression bandage kit ▪ Coban 2[®] multi-layer compression bandage kit (various sizes) ▪ duomed soft 2easy (various types and sizes) ▪ Elleste Duet[®] 1mg tablets ▪ Elleste Duet[®] 2mg tablets ▪ Evorel Sequi[®] patches ▪ Femoston[®] 1/10mg tablets ▪ Femoston[®] 2/10mg tablets ▪ Migralve[®] tablets ▪ Novofem[®] tablets ▪ Paxlovid[®] 150mg/100mg tablets ▪ Trisequens[®] tablets ▪ UργοKTwo[®] latex free multi-layer compression bandage kit (various sizes) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bardex I.C. Bard Tray[®] catheter male (various sizes) ▪ Biocath Comprehensive Care Foley Tray[®] catheter (various types and sizes) ▪ Lubri-Sil Comprehensive Care Foley Tray[®] catheter (various types and sizes) ▪ UργοKTwo with UργοStart[®] multi-layer compression bandage kit |
| | <p data-bbox="783 943 1484 1014">Examples of products that attract <u>FOUR</u> prescription charges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AproDerm[®] emollient starter pack ▪ Ultra Four[®] Reduced Compression multi-layer compression bandage kit ▪ Ugo 4weeks[®] 1C kit ▪ Ugo 4weeks[®] 2C kit |
| | <p data-bbox="783 1267 1484 1339">Examples of products that attract <u>FIVE</u> prescription charges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Libra Cath Kit[®] (various sizes) ▪ Ultra Four[®] multi-layer compression bandage kit (various ankle circumference sizes) |

The examples above illustrate how to determine how many prescription charges apply in practice. Where there is any uncertainty, dm+d can be used to check the number of charges.

This factsheet provides general guidance and does not provide an exhaustive list of all multi-charge items. If you are unsure how many prescription charges apply, please contact the Dispensing and Supply Team:

- 0203 1220 810
- ds.team@cpe.org.uk