

# Dispensing Factsheet: Using the Drug Tariff

This factsheet provides a quick reference guide to information contained within key parts of the Drug Tariff. Pharmacy teams should familiarise themselves with its content, so they know where to find important information and ensure accurate reimbursement.

The Drug Tariff is produced monthly by the Pharmaceutical Directorate of the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) for the Secretary of State. It provides information on payments to pharmacy owners for providing NHS pharmaceutical services, covering both reimbursement (i.e. the cost of drugs and appliances supplied against an NHS prescription) and remuneration (i.e. professional fees/allowances which are paid as part of the NHS pharmacy contract).

For practical guidance on whether an item can be supplied on an NHS prescription, see our page [Dispensing an NHS prescription](#).

Community pharmacy teams can view the [Drug Tariff](#) on the NHSBSA website. It is available in both electronic and PDF formats, and pharmacy teams should ensure they are viewing the correct months edition.

The Drug Tariff Preface publishes monthly lists of additions, deletions and other changes to products listed in the Tariff. Each month, Community Pharmacy England compiles a summary of the changes coming into effect in the Drug Tariff Watch, which can be found [here](#).

Part	Description	Useful links
<b>Preface</b>	This section contains details of additions, deletions and other changes to the current month's Drug Tariff, together with advance notice of additions, deletions and other changes due to take effect in the following month.	<a href="#">Drug Tariff Watch</a> <a href="#">Notice of changes to special container status of products</a> <a href="#">Notice of changes to discount not deducted (DND) status of products</a>
<b>I – Requirements for the Supply of Drugs, Appliances and Chemical Reagents</b>	Outlines the general requirements for supplying drugs, appliances and chemical reagents under NHS pharmaceutical services, including product standards and the processes for submitting claims for payment.	<a href="#">Dispensing an NHS prescription</a> <a href="#">Understanding your FP34 Schedule of Payments</a>
<b>II – Requirements Enabling Payments to be made for the supply of Drugs, Appliances and Chemical Reagents.</b>	Explains how reimbursement for NHS prescriptions is calculated and outlines the requirements contractors must follow when dispensing and endorsing prescriptions. Further information on endorsement requirements, quantity to be supplied and other reimbursement rules is provided in the Useful links.	<a href="#">Endorsement requirements</a> <a href="#">Quantity to be supplied</a> <a href="#">Special Container rules</a> <a href="#">Broken Bulk</a> <a href="#">Out of Pocket Expenses</a> <a href="#">Serious Shortage Protocols</a> <a href="#">Original Pack Dispensing</a> <a href="#">Discount Deduction</a>
<b>IIIA – Professional Fees (Pharmacy Contractors)</b>	Sets out the professional fees paid to pharmacy owners for dispensing prescriptions, including the single activity fee and additional fees that may apply in certain circumstances.	<a href="#">Understanding the Single Activity Fee</a>
<b>IV – Consumables and Containers</b>	Explains the requirements for supplying medicines in suitable containers and the allowances made for payment of consumables and containers used when dispensing prescriptions.	<a href="#">Consumables and container allowance</a>
<b>V – Deduction Scale (Pharmacy Contractors)</b>	Details the deduction (discount) scale applied to monthly reimbursement. Pharmacy owners are reimbursed for the products they dispense, less a discount deduction based on assumed discounts received on appliances, generics and branded medicines.	<a href="#">Discount Deduction</a>
<b>VIA – Payment for Essential Services (Pharmacy Contractors)</b>	Provides information on the payments for Essential Services. This includes information on the NHS Discharge Medicine Service.	<a href="#">Essential Service payments</a>

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<b>VIC</b> - Advanced Services (Pharmacy and Appliance Contractors) (England)	Outlines fees and reimbursement arrangements for each Advanced Service. This section also reproduces the Secretary of State Directions (separate directions for England and Wales) for the Advanced Services for pharmacy owners.	<a href="#">Advanced Services</a>
<b>VIIA</b> - Pharmacy Quality Scheme (England)	Outlines the gateway criterion and domain requirements for the Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS).	<a href="#">Pharmacy Quality Scheme</a>
<b>VIIIA</b> - Basic Prices of Drugs	<p>Lists the basic reimbursement prices for medicines. Items are grouped into categories which determine how the reimbursement price is set.</p> <p><b>Category A</b> - widely available generics where reimbursement prices are based on generic manufacturer's sales data.</p> <p><b>Category C</b> - reimbursement is based on the list price of a particular brand or manufacturer.</p> <p><b>Category H</b> - medicines available from multiple suppliers (previously listed in Category C).</p> <p><b>Category M</b> - widely available generics where reimbursement prices are calculated using generic manufacturer's sales data.</p>	<a href="#">Category A</a> <a href="#">Category H</a> <a href="#">Category M</a> <a href="#">Broken Bulk</a> <a href="#">Out of Pocket expenses</a> <a href="#">Special Container database</a>
<b>VIIIB</b> - Arrangements for payment for Specials and Imported Unlicensed Medicines with a Price Per Unit Above a Minimum Quantity	These are the basic prices for certain unlicensed medicines. The pack size listed against a product will be used as the minimum amount for reimbursement. If a prescription orders more than this amount, reimbursement is calculated using the listed pack price plus the unit price (per 1ml or 1g) for the additional quantity prescribed.	<a href="#">Broken Bulk</a> <a href="#">Unlicensed special or import</a>
<b>VIIIC</b> - Arrangements of Payment for Products Supplied Free of Charge or Products with a Nominal Price (England)	Lists products that are supplied to the NHS free-of-charge or at a nominal price under commercial arrangements with NHS England.	<a href="#">Part VIIIC – Arrangements of payment for products supplied free of charge or products with a nominal price</a>

Part	Description	Useful links
<b>VIIID</b> – Arrangements for payment for Specials & Imported Unlicensed Medicines with Prices Determined Relative to a Commonly Identified Pack Size	Part VIIID sets out payment arrangements for certain specials and imported unlicensed medicines (mainly unlicensed tablets and capsules). Reimbursement prices are calculated relative to commonly identified pack sizes.	<a href="#">Broken Bulk</a> <a href="#">Unlicensed special or import</a>
<b>VIIIE</b> – Retrospective top-up payment for Concessionary prices	Where the margin survey later shows that the concessionary price was below the average purchase price paid by pharmacy owners, a retrospective top-up payment may be applied. Products eligible for these top-up payments are listed in Part VIIIE.	<a href="#">Retrospective top-up payments</a>
<b>IXA</b> – Appliances	Lists the appliances and dressings that may be prescribed on the NHS. The section includes the technical specifications for each category of appliance or dressing and is arranged in alphabetical order by category.	<a href="#">Appliances</a>
<b>IXB</b> – Incontinence Appliances	Lists the incontinence appliances that may be prescribed on the NHS. Products are organised by appliance category (e.g. belts, sheaths, tubes) and then by manufacturer, with details of product codes, pack sizes and reimbursement prices. A list of manufacturers and their contact details is provided at the end of the section.	<a href="#">Appliances</a>
<b>IXC</b> – Stoma Appliances	Lists the stoma appliances that may be prescribed on the NHS. Products are organised by appliance category and then by manufacturer, with details of product codes, pack sizes and reimbursement prices. A list of manufacturers and their contact details is included at the end of the section.	<a href="#">Appliances</a>
<b>IXR</b> – Chemical Reagents	Contains the chemical reagents that may be prescribed on the NHS. Only the products and pack sizes listed in this Part are permitted.	<a href="#">Appliances</a>
<b>XIIA</b> – Pharmacy Access Scheme (England)	Outlines the eligibility criteria and payments associated with the Pharmacy Access Scheme.	<a href="#">Pharmacy Access Scheme (PhAS)</a>
<b>XIII</b> – Payments in Respect of Foundation Trainee Pharmacists (formerly Pre-Registration Trainees)	Details the grant payable to pharmacy owners who provide the required training experience for foundation trainee pharmacists.	<a href="#">Foundation trainee pharmacist payments</a>

Part	Description	Useful links
<b>XIVA</b> – Reward Scheme – Fraudulent Prescription forms	Details the reward payments made where a pharmacy team member correctly identifies a fraudulent prescription form and helps prevent fraud.	<a href="#">Fraudulent Prescription Form Reward Scheme</a>
<b>XIVB</b> – Arrangements for Contractors Concerning Prescription Pricing Errors	This details how pharmacy owners can request a prescription pricing re-check.	<a href="#">Prescription Rechecks</a>
<b>XIVC</b> – Devolving the Global Sum – Temporary Safeguarding Payments	This section provides information on the arrangements for claiming temporary safeguarding payments.	<a href="#">Temporary safeguarding payments</a>
<b>XV</b> – Borderline Substances	Part XV lists the approved Borderline Substances which include foods and toiletry preparations which may, in certain circumstances, be regarded as drugs. The Advisory Committee on Borderline Substances (ACBS) advises on the circumstances in which these products may be prescribed on the NHS.  List A provides an alphabetical index of products with the conditions they are recommended for, and List B provides an alphabetical index of conditions and the products suitable for those conditions.	<a href="#">Dispensing an NHS prescription</a>
<b>XVI</b> – Notes on Charges	Includes information on current prescription charges and exemptions, including the list of free-of-charge contraceptives and medicines covered by the HRT Prescription Prepayment Certificate. It also includes guidance on the Prescription Charge Refund procedure using FP57 refund form.	<a href="#">Prescription charges</a> <a href="#">HRT Prescription Prepayment Certificates</a> <a href="#">Prescription charge refund procedure</a>
<b>XVIIA</b> – Dental Prescribing	The Dental Prescribing Formulary lists the substances that may be prescribed by dentists on FPIOD prescription forms. Dentists are encouraged to prescribe generically, although brand names may be used provided the brand is not listed in Part XVIII A of the Drug Tariff.	<a href="#">Who can prescribe what?</a>
<b>XVII B (i)</b> – Nurse Prescribers’ Formulary for Community Practitioners (in Wales District Nurses and Health Visitors)	Contains the Nurse Prescribers’ Formulary for Community Practitioners. Community Practitioner Nurse Prescribers may only prescribe medicines listed in this formulary or appliances from Part IX of the Drug Tariff.	<a href="#">Who can prescribe what?</a>

Part	Description	Useful links
<b>XVIIIB (ii)</b> – Non-Medical Independent Prescribing (Nurses, Pharmacists, Optometrists, Physiotherapists and Chiropodists/Podiatrists)	Covers non-medical independent prescribers who may prescribe any licensed medicine for any condition within their competence, subject to certain restrictions.	<a href="#">Who can prescribe what?</a>
<b>XVIII A</b> – Drugs, Medicines and Other Substances not to be ordered under a General Medical Services Contract	Drugs, medicines and other substances listed in this section are not permitted on an NHS prescription.	<a href="#">Dispensing an NHS prescription</a>
<b>XVIII B</b> – Drugs, Medicines and Other Substances that may be ordered only in certain circumstances	This is the Selected List Scheme which lists items that may be prescribed under certain conditions. Prescriptions must be marked ‘SLS’ by the prescriber.  Please note: there are separate lists for English and Welsh prescribers to follow.	<a href="#">Gonadotrophin Releasing Hormone (GnRH) Prescription Regulations</a> <a href="#">Dispensing an NHS prescription</a>
<b>XX</b> – Requisitions and Private Prescriptions for Controlled Drugs	This section explains how pharmacy owners submit private prescriptions and requisitions for Controlled drugs (Schedule 2 and 3) to the NHSBSA.	<a href="#">Dispensing Controlled Drugs</a>