

Dispensing Factsheet: Prescription Endorsement

This factsheet provides a quick reference guide on prescription endorsements for FP10 paper and electronic prescriptions. Prescription endorsements, where required, must be applied accurately to minimise any risk of missing or delayed payments.

This factsheet explains the different prescription endorsements that can be applied by prescribers and dispensers including:

- details and purpose of each endorsement,
- the circumstances that may require application of the endorsement, and
- advice on the correct application of the endorsement.

Pharmacy teams should ensure that prescription endorsements, where required, are clear, complete and correctly applied to minimise any impact on payment.

General dispenser endorsements

The guidance below is intended as a quick reference guide only.

Prescribed Item	Required endorsement
A generic medicine listed in Part VIIIA of the Drug Tariff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pack size — specify the pack size used when multiple sizes are listed in Category C. Category A, H and M products that are classed as special containers in the Drug Tariff must also be endorsed with the pack size.
A generic medicine which is not listed in Part VIIIA of the Drug Tariff and does not have a price on dm+d.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Brand name or manufacturer/supplier. ▪ Pack size — where multiple pack sizes are available. ▪ Net pack price (before discount and excluding VAT) if the endorsed product does not have a price listed on the Dictionary of Medicines and Devices (dm+d).
A branded medicine.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pack size. ▪ Net pack price (before discount and excluding VAT) if the endorsed product does not have a price listed on the Dictionary of Medicines and Devices (dm+d).
A generic unlicensed medicine (or special) listed in Part VIIIB or Part VIID of the Drug Tariff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 'SP' (£20.00 fixed fee), or ▪ 'ED' (£20.00 fixed fee - for Part VIIIB only) — where appropriate and the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ name(s), quantities, and cost of the ingredients used in preparing the product.

Prescribed Item	Required endorsement
An unlicensed medicine (or special) or import not listed in Part VIII B or Part VIII D of the Drug Tariff and has been sourced under a manufacturer's specials/importer's licence issued by the MHRA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'SP' (£20.00 fixed fee). Amount dispensed over pack size used. Invoice price per pack size from which the order was supplied, less any discount or rebate expressed as £x.xx. Manufacturers'/importers' MHRA license number. Batch number of the product supplied (more information at cpe.org.uk/specials).
An unlicensed medicine (or special) not listed in Part VIII B and has been manufactured under the Section 10 exemption from the Medicines Act 1968 (either by the pharmacist or a third party).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name(s) of ingredient. Quantity of each ingredient. Cost of the ingredients used in preparing the product. 'ED' (£20.00 fixed fee) – for costs incurred in dispensing a product prepared under the Section 10 exemption (more information at cpe.org.uk/specials and our Dispensing Factsheet – Unlicensed specials and imports).
A generically prescribed appliance which is only listed generically in Part IX of the Drug Tariff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pack size – where multiple pack sizes are available. <p>For elastic hosiery, prescriptions should indicate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total quantity supplied. Compression class. Knit. Description of the article (e.g. circular knit, below knee). Made to measure if appropriate.
A generically prescribed appliance which is listed by brand or manufacturer in Part IX of the Drug Tariff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brand or manufacturer's name as listed in the Tariff. Pack size – only where there are multiple pack sizes listed in the Tariff. <p>Note: some appliances have default prices listed at the beginning of the relevant Drug Tariff Part IX section. These prices apply to generically written prescriptions for the following appliances: catheters, elasticated tubular bandages, absorbent perforated plastic film faced dressings, permeable non-woven synthetic adhesive tape BP 1988, and peak flow meters.</p> <p>To be reimbursed for supplying a particular brand that is only available to purchase above the default generic reimbursement price, the prescription must be returned to the prescriber for amendment to include the specific brand name (or manufacturer's product) as listed in the Drug Tariff.</p>
An appliance prescribed by brand name or manufacturer name listed in Part IX of the Drug Tariff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pack size – where there are multiple pack sizes listed.

Specific dispenser endorsements

The table below shows a list of commonly used dispenser endorsements that may only be used in specific circumstances depending on the product prescribed. Pharmacy staff should check if the endorsement can be applied to the specified item by referring to [NHSBSA's Alphabetical Guide to Prescription Endorsement](#).

Category	Required Endorsement
Broken Bulk	'BB' and amount dispensed over pack size used. For information on eligibility see cpe.org.uk/bb .
Hosiery	Compression class, Article style, Quantity, Knit; and Made to measure and measured and fitted (MF, see below), if appropriate.
Instalment Dispensing (FP10MDA)	Date, quantity supplied, and pharmacist initials for each instalment. For more information see cpe.org.uk/mda .
Measured and Fitted	'MF' (£2.64 fixed fee) – for elastic hosiery requiring measurement. Para stomal garments (belts and girdles), where size is not indicated in the Drug Tariff and measurement is required
Not Dispensed	'ND' and score through the item in the prescribing area for paper prescriptions . For EPS prescriptions , the paper-based 'ND' endorsement is not used. Not dispensed items on EPS prescriptions will be automatically assigned the default item status code '0002' where no dispensing activity is recorded.
Out of Pocket Expenses	Select endorsement 'XP' for EPS prescriptions or initial 'OOP' on FP10 paper prescriptions and include reason(s) for the claim, for example, handling costs, and the total amount being claimed, expressed in the following format: £12.34 or £0.99. For information on eligibility see cpe.org.uk/oop .
Packaged Doses (for oral liquid methadone)	'PD' and the number of additional doses packaged separately, for example for six package doses, you endorse PD6. For more information see cpe.org.uk/methadone .
Prescriber Contacted	'PC' (paper prescriptions only), missing information, date, and pharmacist initials.
Prescriber Not Contacted	'PNC' (paper prescriptions only), the missing information, date, and pharmacist initials.
Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SSP followed by the three-digit reference number applicable to the SSP. ▪ Details of product supplied in accordance with the SSP (drug name, quantity, strength, formulation, supplier name or brand*). ▪ Quantity supplied and pack size – where multiple pack sizes are available. ▪ Invoice price – if no list price is available on dm+d. <p><i>*The drug details and/or quantity supplied and other required endorsement will depend on the specific SSP. To ensure correct payment for SSP claims, contractors should ensure that endorsements reflect the requirements outlined in the corresponding SSP endorsing guidance available on NHSBSA's website nhsbsa.nhs.uk/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps.</i></p>
Unlicensed Specials and Imports/ Extemporaneously Dispensed	'SP' (£20.00 fixed fee) or 'ED' (£20.00 fixed fee). For more information see cpe.org.uk/specials .

Prescriber Endorsements

Below is a list of the endorsements which only a prescriber can add to a prescription item.

Endorsement	What it means for dispensing
FS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 'FS' enables prescribers to endorse item(s) to indicate to dispensers that the item(s) are to be provided to the patient free-of-charge. The 'FS' endorsement is an item level endorsement that must be applied to each applicable item. ▪ No prescription charge should be levied for any 'FS' endorsed items. For more information see our factsheet. ▪ For EPS prescriptions, prescribers must apply 'FS' using their prescribing system. It should not be manually added to the EPS dosage instructions field as this is not captured by the NHSBSA during prescription pricing. ▪ FP10 paper prescriptions containing 'FS' endorsed items must be placed in the relevant paid or exempt red separator for end-of-month submission.
SLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This endorsement is required if the item is listed in Selected List Scheme (Part XVIII B of the Drug Tariff) as these items may be ordered only in certain circumstances. ▪ If required, this endorsement must have been made by the prescriber before dispensing. ▪ If a medicine listed in the Part XVIII B of the Drug Tariff has not been endorsed 'SLS' by the prescriber, the prescription would need to be returned to the prescriber for amendment. Pharmacy staff cannot apply the 'SLS' endorsement themselves.
Either 'CC', 'OC', or '♀'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prescriber must endorse with 'CC', 'OC' or the female symbol (♀) for items used as contraceptives not listed in Part XVI, ensuring no prescription charge applies.
ACBS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prescriptions for products recommended by the Advisory Committee on Borderline Substances (ACBS) should be endorsed 'ACBS'. ▪ If the 'ACBS' endorsement is not included on an FP10 prescription it will not affect how it's processed. The products in the ACBS list are recommendations made by the ACBS and prescriptions issued in accordance with the Committee's advice and endorsed 'ACBS' will not normally be investigated. ▪ For EPS2 prescriptions, the prescriber must use the 'ACBS' endorsement option on their prescribing system.
Bulk Prescription	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This endorsement is the prescriber declaring that the criteria for issuing bulk prescriptions have been met. No patient charge is payable for this item. ▪ Bulk prescription must have the following information: Institution name, date, total quantity, and "as directed" dosing. ▪ Bulk prescriptions must be an order for a drug which is prescribable under the NHS and which is not designated as a Prescription Only Medicine (POM). ▪ FP10 paper prescriptions should be placed in the red separator for end-of-month submission.

Electronic Prescription Service Endorsement Guidance

The Electronic Prescription Service Endorsement guidance (linked below) was jointly produced by Community Pharmacy England, the Department of Health and Social Care and the NHSBSA. It supports the endorsement requirements set out in the NHS Drug Tariff for England.

It sets out the endorsement codes and any required additional information for EPS and explains how endorsements should be recorded within EPS messages to support NHSBSA reimbursement and remuneration processes.

Please note that the authority on all endorsements remains the Drug Tariff and, where appropriate, the Regulations. This document must be read in conjunction with the latest monthly version of the Drug Tariff.

- [Electronic Prescription Service Endorsement Guidance](#)

Useful links

- See our [Endorsement guidance](#) page
- Watch our [Funding & Reimbursement Shorts: Prescription switching video](#)
- See our factsheet [Dispensing Factsheet: Exemptions from the prescription charge](#).