



Upcoming changes to Part IX of the Drug Tariff

Department of Health and Social Care

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Objectives

In this webinar we will cover the following:

- Introduction to Part IX
- Dispensing and prescription endorsement requirements
- Payment arrangements for Part IX appliances
- Background to upcoming changes to Part IX
- Re-categorisation of Part IX – implementation timelines
- Impact of Part IX changes on pharmacy teams

Medical devices in primary care

- All medical devices in England must be registered with the MHRA before being placed on the market
- Medical devices in the UK are required to carry a **CE** or **UKCA** mark which confirms that applicable safety and performances standards are met



- To be supplied against an NHS prescription, the device **must be listed in Part IX of the Drug Tariff**

Part IX– split into four sections

- **Part IXA:** Appliances for example, catheters, dressings & elastic hosiery
- **Part IXB:** Incontinence appliances for example, leg bags & sheaths
- **Part IXC:** Stoma appliances for colostomy, ileostomy and urostomy
- **Part IXR:** Chemical reagents for example testing strips

Prescriptions for medical devices (appliances)

- Only medical devices listed in Part IX of the Drug Tariff can be supplied against NHS prescriptions
- Most devices are usually ordered by brand or manufacturer's name
- If a medical device is ordered generically, pharmacy owners will only be paid for **endorsing and supplying a brand or manufacturer's product as listed in Part IX of the Drug Tariff**

Medical devices (appliances) with restrictions

- Certain medical devices listed in Part IXA of the Drug Tariff are marked with '**restricted availability**' for example, vacuum pumps and constrictor rings for erectile dysfunction
- These devices which are part of the **Selected Listed Scheme (SLS)** should only be prescribed on the NHS for certain patient groups with stated medical conditions
- NHS prescriptions for these devices must be endorsed '**SLS**' by the prescriber

NHS Pharmacy Terms of Service (ToS) requirements for dispensing appliances

- The NHS Pharmacy ToS requires a pharmacist to dispense **drugs** *“with reasonable promptness”*
- For Part IX appliances the obligation to dispense arises **only if the pharmacist supplies such products “in the normal course of their business”** AND they have the option to signpost patients to other dispensers (pharmacies or dispensing appliance contractors)

Dispensing of appliances by NHS pharmacies

In 2025/26:

- Total number of Part IX appliances dispensed by community pharmacies was **47.7m items**
- Total cost of Part IX appliances dispensed by community pharmacies was **£818m**

Prescription endorsement requirements

Appliance prescription	Endorsement requirements	Reimbursement
Prescribed by brand or manufacturer's name	Endorse pack size if multiple pack sizes are listed in the Tariff	Based on the Drug Tariff Part IX price
Generically prescribed but listed by brand or manufacturer's name in the Drug Tariff	Endorse the brand or manufacturer's name as listed in the Tariff; pack size must also be endorsed if multiple pack sizes are listed in the Tariff	Based on the Drug Tariff Part IX price
Generically prescribed and only listed generically in the Drug Tariff	Endorse pack size if multiple pack sizes are listed in the Tariff; for elastic hosiery and trusses the complete generic product description must be provided	Based on the Drug Tariff Part IX price
Without a size specified	Endorse any size given as long as the size is listed in the Drug Tariff. If no size is endorsed the prescription may be referred back	Based on the Drug Tariff Part IX price

Additional claims and endorsements

Appliances section	Broken bulk (BB)	Out of pocket expenses (OOP)	Measured and Fitted (MF)
Part IXA	No	No	Yes for elastic hosiery and para stomal garments
Part IXB	Yes	Yes	n/a
Part IXC	Yes	Yes	n/a
Part IXR	No	No	n/a

Fees payable for dispensing appliances

Activity	Endorsement required	Fee
Single Activity Fee (SAF) per item dispensed	n/a	£1.52
For measurement of the patient for fitting elastic hosiery and para stomal garments (belts and girdles) and endorsed as "measured and fitted"	MF	£2.60
Home delivery of: ▪ Qualifying appliances listed in Part IXA (excluding catheter kits and intermittent self-catheters) ▪ Any appliance listed in Part IXB ▪ Any appliance listed in Part IXC	n/a	£3.40
Home delivery of catheter kits and intermittent self-catheters	n/a	£9.30

Appliances - Discount deduction arrangements

- Unless granted Discount Not Deducted (DND) status, all appliances listed in Part IX are subject to a discount deduction rate or 'clawback' of **9.85%**
- In last few years, Community Pharmacy England has successfully applied for DND status for a small number of appliances
- No discount deduction applies to the following **7** appliances listed in Part IX:
 - **Accu-Chek SmartGuide**
 - **CareSens Air Sensor**
 - **Dexcom One+ Sensor**
 - **FreeStyle Libre 2 Plus Sensor**
 - **FreeStyle Libre 3 Plus Sensor**
 - **GlucoMen iCan**
 - **GlucoRx AiDEX Sensor**

Part IX deletions

- Appliances to be deleted from the Drug Tariff are marked with a **three-month notice of deletion** and removed from the Drug Tariff once this period has ended
- The notice of deletion will also be included in the Preface section of the Drug Tariff one month prior to removal of the appliance from Part IX
- Each month, pharmacy teams can check Community Pharmacy England's [Drug Tariff Appliance Watch: Notice of Deletion](#) page for a list of appliances flagged for deletion.
See <https://cpe.org.uk/appliance-watch>

Disallowed appliances

- In the 12 months between July 2025 and June 2026, there were approximately **32,000 items** disallowed by the NHSBSA
- **Of these, 68% (around 21,000 items) were disallowed because the items ordered were not an appliance or chemical reagent listed in Part IX**
- **Prescriptions for appliances not listed in the Part IX will not be passed for payment and will be returned as disallowed by the NHSBSA**
- Pharmacy teams should request their IT system suppliers to update dispensing systems at the start of each month to reflect the latest Drug Tariff changes to minimise the risk of dispensing disallowed appliances

Problems obtaining appliances at Tariff prices

- Currently, price concessions cannot be requested for Part IX appliances unavailable to purchase at or below the price listed in the Drug Tariff
- Notify NHSBSA by emailing pixie@nhsbsa.nhs.uk or Community Pharmacy England ds.team@cpe.org.uk if you are unable to purchase a Part IX appliance at or below the listed Drug Tariff price from your:
 - usual wholesaler
 - directly from the manufacturer or supplier
 - without incurring additional charges such as delivery, handling or carriage. **Note: out of pocket expenses cannot be claimed for any appliances listed in Part IXA and IXR of the Drug Tariff**



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Part IX of the Drug Tariff

Webinar for CPE members

22 September 2026

Introduction and Aims



Modernising Part IX of the Drug Tariff

- The changes to Part IX introduce a more active management of the listing process to ensure value for money. We are introducing regular renewals and enhanced assessments to improve value for the taxpayer and maintain high standards for patient care
- We have committed to maintain close engagement with industry and patient groups as the proposals are implemented
- Patient feedback and clinical input are central to this process, helping us make decisions that reflect what matters most to people



Key Changes

Comparable categories

- **Original process-** Many listings are currently not always easy to compare to see what the options are
- **Update-** Increasing number of sub-categories of comparable products (not always clinically interchangeable but should be comparable)

Mandatory requirement for suppliers to apply to renew listings

- **Original process-** Products indefinitely listed
- **Update** - Renewal every 4 or so years, subject to review
- *As per guidance, there are some exceptions (e.g. technical specifications and paediatric stoma bags)*

Enhanced assessment process

- **Original process-** only NHS Prescriptions Services team assess
- **Update-** Independent Advisory Panels input
- Minimum requirements plus added value points on quality and social
- On renewal a new benchmark price is determined. If a product can prove higher quality, can have a higher listing price

Temporary listings

- **Original process** - An application would be rejected if not enough community evidence
- **Update** - Temporary listing allows 2 years plus, subject to review
- Designed to support innovation and faster access for patients



Patient input into Part IX assessments

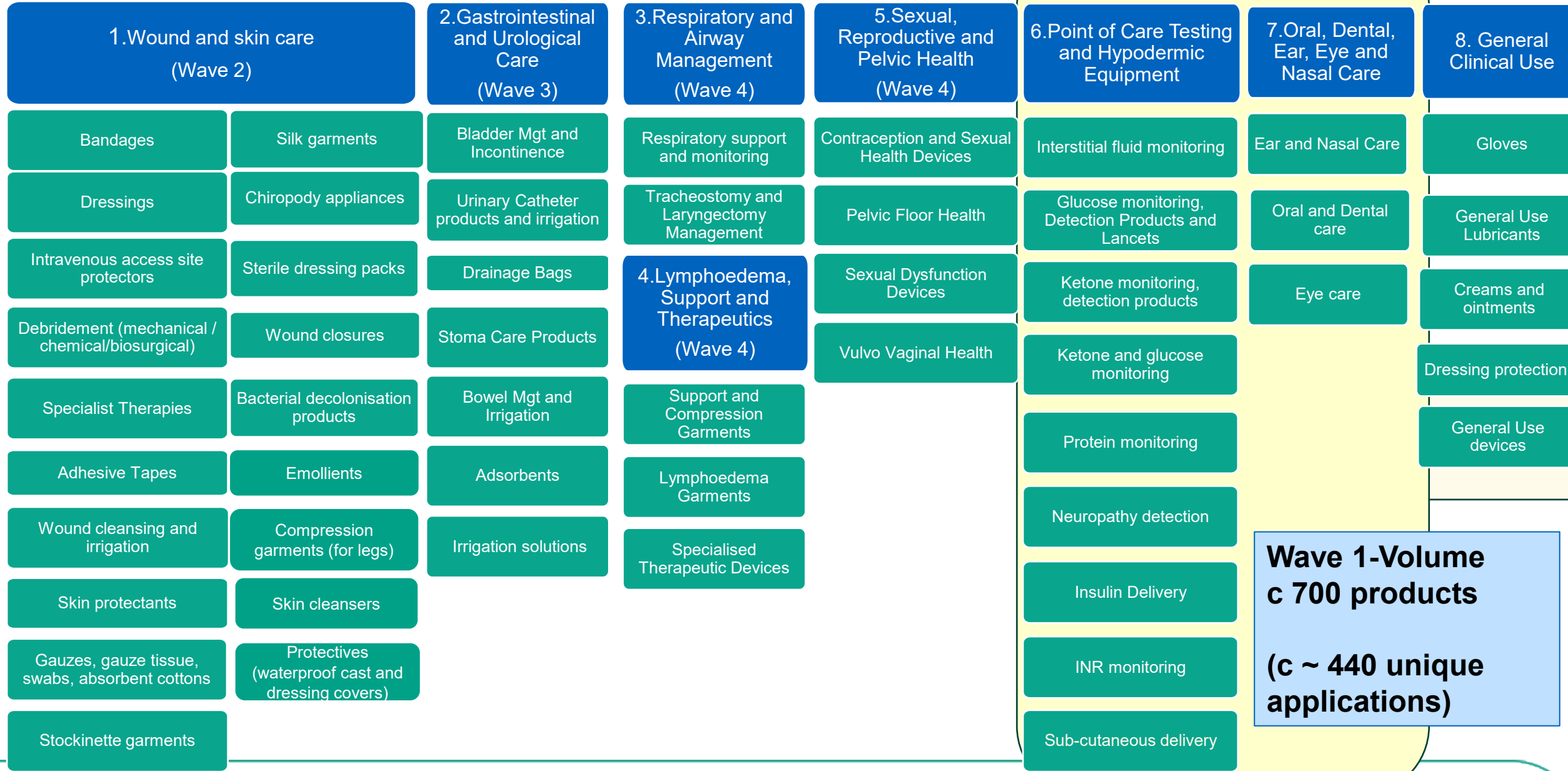
- The **National Voices** report on patient experience with community devices was published in January, and findings presented at the NHS Confed June 2026.
 - **Patient survey:** Over 1,000 patient survey responses were collected across all products, identifying the attributes most valued by end users. These insights have been integrated into the assessment framework.
 - **Focus Groups and Interviews:** Seven patient focus groups and additional interviews have taken place to better understand the information patients require, ensuring the framework is responsive to their needs.
 - [Patient views on medical devices prescribed to them outside of hospital in England – National Voices](#)
- **Independent Advisory Panels:** Panels for the first wave of assessments, including patient representatives, are in place.



Re-categorisation



Categorisation



Wave 1-Volume c 700 products

(c ~ 440 unique applications)

Renewal process



Wave 1

6. Point of Care Testing and Hypodermic Equipment

Key items include:

- continuous glucose monitors
- glucose and ketone testing strips
- Lancets
- Insulin pens
- Needles for insulin pens

7. Oral, Dental, Ear, Eye and Nasal Care

Key items include:

- Oral mouth sprays
- Ear sprays and drops
- Artificial tears and lubricants



Wave 1

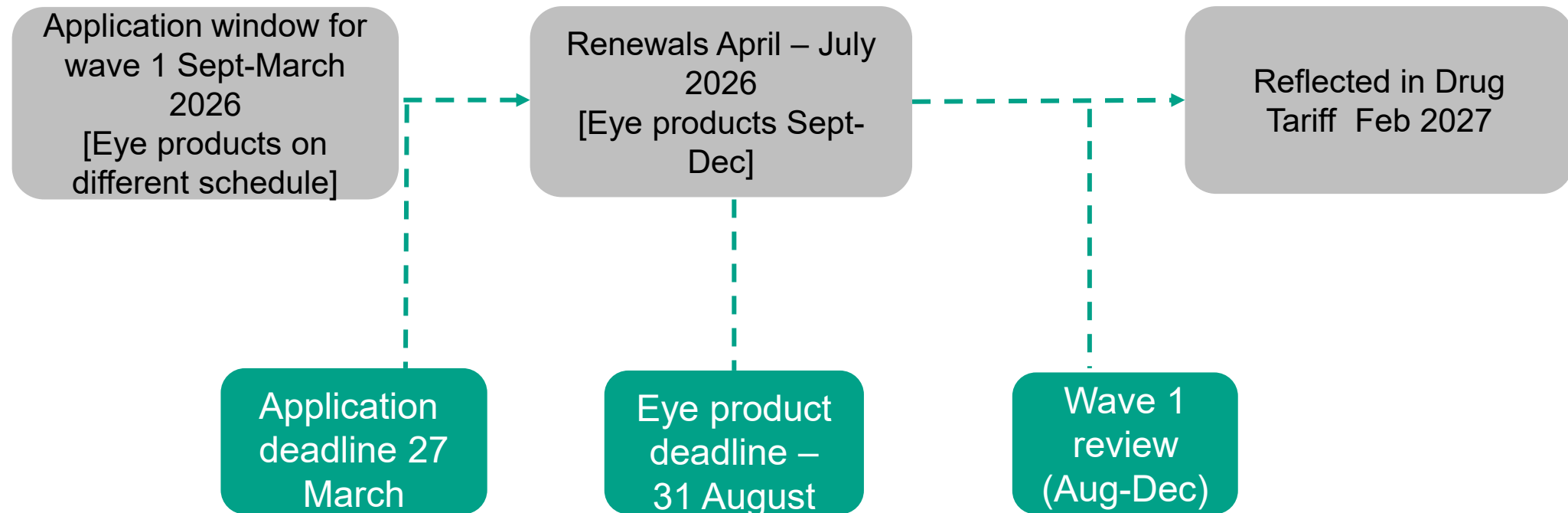
Suppliers apply:

- Must meet pre-qualification criteria including:
 - Meets the regulatory requirements
 - Is suitable for prescribing
 - Confirmation company is still supplying
 - If listed for more than 2 years has been prescribed
 - Carbon reduction plan or net-zero commitment (above a certain threshold)
 - Compliant with the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act
- Products are then assessed on Quality (Value Add), Social and Price

Supporting guidance for suppliers, policy paper, indicative timelines and further information is available on the NHSBSA website: [Drug Tariff Part IX information | NHSBSA](#)



Wave 1 Timeline



Implementation over next few years

- Requirement for suppliers to renew listings is being implemented in Waves. About one wave per year.
- Suppliers apply using the 'enhanced assessment' application process on the Part IX web page (NHSBSA). Applicants must pass on minimum requirements and price. Value-added points can be gained on quality and social criteria.
- Independent Advisory Panels for wave 1 were formed to support wave 1 assessments and any new product applications to relevant categories. Once the panel is in place for each category they can be used for future applications.
- Once a category/wave has been updated suppliers must use new Part IX guidance/assessment framework to apply with any new products.



Future Waves - Indicative timelines

	Renewal Notice period	Application assessment (renewals)	Review	Price updated on DT	Delisted - removed from DT
Action taking place:	Applications must be submitted within this period by suppliers*	Applications are assessed, scores are shared and opportunity to appeal	Process pauses for post action review to ensure no unintended consequences	This is the month in which the updated prices are reflected in the published Drug Tariff	If a product is removed from the Drug Tariff, it will no longer be in the Drug Tariff from this month
Wave 2 <i>Wound and Skin Care</i> <i>(3 interim deadlines)</i>	End January 2027 notice of wave 2 is given 1) End July 2027 for Antimicrobial dressings, gauzes, swabs, absorbent cottons, wound cleansing and irrigation, debridement, wound closures, skin protectants, bacterial decolonisation products, specialist therapies, intravenous access site protectors, adhesive tapes and bandages 2) Mid-October 2027 Non-antimicrobial dressings 3) Mid-November 2027 Stockinette garments, silk garments (for EB), compression garments, chiropody appliances, protectives	Aug – November 2027 onwards	December 2027 onwards	1. February 2028 2. June 2028 3. July 2028	June 2028 onwards



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Wave 3 Gastrointestinal and Urological Care	Jan 2028 – Jul 2028	Jul – Oct 2028	Nov – Feb 2029	Jan/Feb 2029	May 2029
Wave 4 - Lymphoedema, Support and Therapeutics - Sexual, Reproductive and Pelvic Health - Respiratory and Airway Management	Nov 2028 – May 2029	May – Aug 2029	Sept – Dec 2029	Nov 2029	March 2030



What does this mean for community pharmacy?

Outcomes following renewals



Change in listed prices

- Some prices will remain the same, several changes expected
- No changes to usual rules for Part IX A,B,C,R – linked fees remain the same



Patient switching – where products marked for deletion

- Change in some prescriptions: 6 months notice given for delisting, can be extended where identified necessary
- Potential uptake of different products due to increased comparability



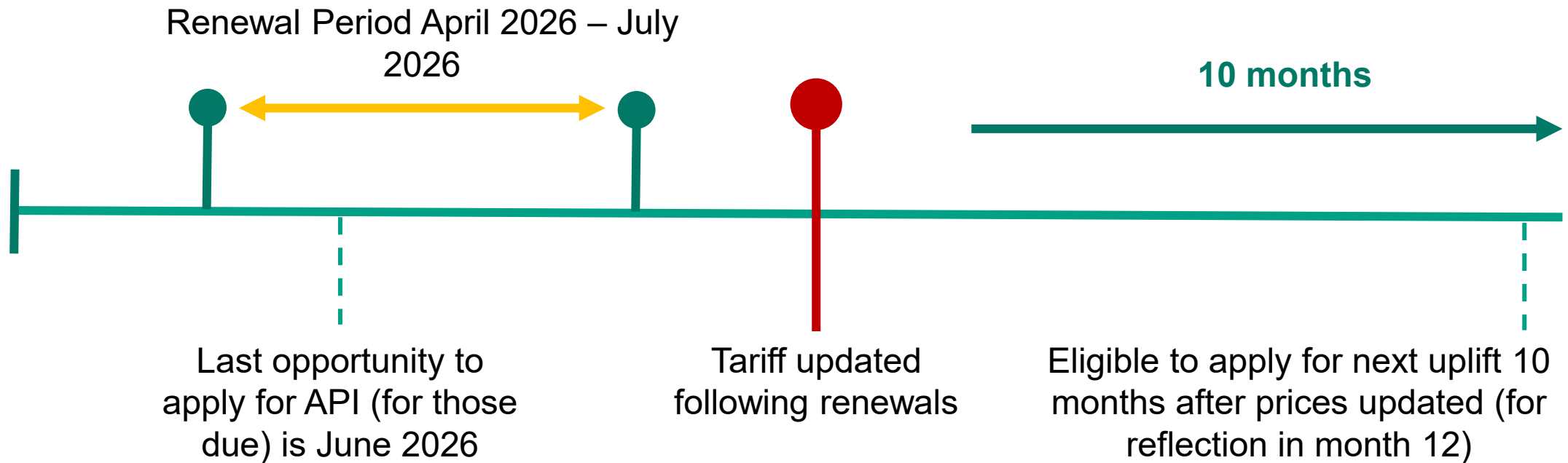
Wave 1 Independent Advisory Panels

[Drug Tariff Independent Advisory Panels: Part IX - GOV.UK](#)

[Working for DHSC - Department of Health and Social Care - GOV.UK](#) (future opportunities will be posted here)



Annual Price Increase process for suppliers



Communication with prescribers and dispensers

- Updated on dm+d
- Products for deletion get a black dot on the tariff
- CPE Drug Tariff Appliance Watch: Notice of Deletion
- ICBs will be updated



Practical challenges and how pharmacy can input

- Device being sold above Drug Tariff price - report to CPE/BSA
- Device being sold with additional charges - report to CPE/BSA
- Prescribing and dispensing systems still allowing selection of de-listed appliances – we are encouraging more frequent updates



Further information

Useful resources:

- NHSBSA's [Drug Tariff Part IX](#) webpage
- Community Pharmacy England [Dispensing Appliances](#) webpage
<https://cpe.org.uk/dispensing-appliances>
- Community Pharmacy England [Drug Tariff Appliance Watch: Notice of Deletion](#) <https://cpe.org.uk/appliance-watch>

If you are unable to purchase a Part IX appliance at or below the listed Drug Tariff price

- Email NHSBSA pixie@nhsbsa.nhs.uk or
- Community Pharmacy England ds.team@cpe.org.uk