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Business Services Authority



Hints & Tips Dispensing Contractors

Pharmacy	Dispensing Doctors	Prescribing-only GPs (Personal Administration)	Appliance Contractors
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Issue 50

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Welcome to Hints and Tips for Dispensing Contractors

In this edition:

[NHS England and Wales Drug Tariff Online](#)

[Hypromellose 0.3% eye drops - Drugs changing to Appliances](#)

[Diasallowed items](#)

[Endorsing SSPs](#)

[NHS England and Wales Drug Tariff Online](#)

The [NHS England and Wales Drug Tariff](#) is available online three working days before the end of each month. All contractors are notified of its publication by email on the first day of each month.

You can view the Drug Tariff in one of two formats: a PDF version (which closely resembles the traditional printed version) which you can download onto a mobile device and does not require constant internet connection. Selected

The 'electronic' version can be viewed on a variety of devices but does require a constant internet connection. This version does not contain page numbers and any reference to page numbers should be cross-referenced with the PDF.

[User guides are available](#) detailing how to use both versions.

We have also broken down the PDF Drug Tariff into sections frequently used by contractors. You can view Parts VIIIA, Part VIIIB, Part VIIID and Category M drugs in separate [Excel spread sheets](#), as well as appliances listed in [Part IX](#) of the Tariff. [Concession prices](#) and any [Serious Shortage Protocols](#) are also published when they apply, and any other changes to the monthly Tariff are communicated in the [Pharmacies, GP practices and appliance contractors news](#).

We would be interested to hear your views and experiences of using both versions of the Tariff, and whether you would be happy for us to contact you in the future for further feedback. If you would like to be involved, email the team at nhsbsa.drugtariff@nhs.net with your contact details and area of work.

[Hypromellose 0.3% eye drops - Drugs changing to Appliances](#)

There are occasions where licensed medicines are discontinued but medical appliances are still available. A recent example is Hypromellose 0.3% eye drops which was removed from Part VIIIA of the Drug Tariff in June 2022 but is still listed in Part IXA.

This type of appliance should only be prescribed by brand. Please see the Eye Drops – Hypromellose section of Part IXA of the drug tariff for listed brands.

If any generically written prescriptions are received, these will be passed for payment where a listed branded appliance from the drug tariff is endorsed.

Any unendorsed submissions will be referred back.

If a brand not listed in Part IXA of the Tariff is endorsed, the item will be returned as disallowed.

We have recently noticed a rise in Disallowed items.

A high percentage of Disallowed items are those ordered by dentists or community nurse prescribers which are not listed in their respective drug formularies or are an appliance or chemical reagent that is not listed in Part IX of the Drug Tariff.

To help reduce the number of times this happens, we have put together a guidance document on some of the most common Disallowed items and the reasons they were Disallowed.

[Find out more about Disallowed items](#)

[Endorsing Serious Shortage Protocols \(SSPs\)](#)

If the Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) decides there is a serious shortage of a specific medicine or appliance, they may issue a Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP).

Under an SSP, pharmacists have the power to dispense an alternative to a prescribed medication, without first having to contact the patient's GP.

[Find out more about how to endorse SSPs](#)

Useful links

[NHS England and Wales Drug Tariff](#)

[Guidance on sorting your FP10s and using the red separator](#)

[Sending in your reimbursement and remuneration claims](#)

MORE INFORMATION

For more information you can access our online **Knowledge Base** or contact us via **email**.

You can also call us on **0300 330 1349**.

Our opening hours are 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday

Coronavirus (COVID-19) and contacting our services

If you need to contact us, our response times may be slower than usual during the coronavirus outbreak.

If you've got a hint or tip that you would like us to write about in a future edition, email: nhsbsa.communicationsteam@nhs.net

If you've been forwarded this newsletter, you can [subscribe to future editions](#).



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