

Buttercups Monthly Drug Tariff Bulletin

From Emma Seton - April 2011



Welcome to the first Buttercups monthly bulletin on the Drug Tariff.

Each month we will keep you up to date with important changes to the Drug Tariff and we will have a hot spot to teach you more about the Drug Tariff, this month we are focusing on "NCSO"...a very hot topic!

HOT SPOT

Focus on.....NCSO in England and Wales

Did you know that all drugs listed in Part VIII of the Drug Tariff are paid at a fixed price, regardless of which brand you dispense?

As you will know there are numerous supply shortages at the moment, and obtaining even the most common drugs can prove difficult and costly. Sometimes you may even have to supply a more expensive brand than you will be reimbursed...not good for business!

To prevent this each month the Department of Health agrees with the PSNC which drugs are in short supply and publishes a list of them. Any drugs on this list can be reimbursed at the price the pharmacy has paid to purchase them; however, you must ENDORSE the prescription as follows:

- The letters "NCSO"
- The brand name/manufacturer/supplier of the drug
- The price of the drug, before discount and excluding VAT
- The endorsement should be initialled and dated (this can be done by any member of the pharmacy team)

That all sounds sensible so what's the problem?

The NCSO list is often not published until part way through a month although it will apply to the named drugs dispensed anytime during that month.

So what's the answer?

Endorse all items you believe might be granted NCSO during the month, i.e. those hard to obtain, even if they have not been agreed yet. If they do not granted NCSO status for that month you will just be reimbursed at the usual tariff price.

Where can I find the NCSO list each month?

It is published both on the PSNC website and the NHS Business Services Authority website. You can also subscribe to an email update service from the PSNC which tells you as soon as a drug has been added to the NCSO list.

HOT SPOT



Drug Tariff changes for April

Prescription charges

Scotland has followed Wales and N.Ireland to provide all prescriptions free of charge for residents; in England they have increased to £7.40. A 3 month prepayment certificate in England is now £29.10

Drugs for which discount is not deducted (England and Wales)

Zonisamide 50mg & 100mg capsules have been added to the list

Common additions to part VIII (England and Wales)

Benzoyl peroxide 5% cream and 10% wash

Conjugated oestrogens 1.25mg tablets and Norgestrel 150microgram tablets (Prempak-C high strength)

Diclofenac Sodium 75mg M/R tabs

Oxycodone / Naloxone modified-release tablets (10mg/5mg, 20mg/10mg and 5mg/2.5mg strengths)

Timolol eye drops 0.2ml unit dose preservative free (0.25% and 0.5%)

Common deletions to part VIII (England and Wales)

Sumatriptan 50mg tabs, pack size of 12 (pack of 6 still listed)

NCSO April (England and Wales)

Citalopram 20mg tablets

Gabapentin 100mg capsules

Gabapentin 400mg capsules

Naftidrofuryl 100mg caps

Prednisolone 5mg tablets

Sertraline 100mg tablets