

Buttercups Monthly Drug Tariff Bulletin

From Emma Seton - May 2011



Welcome to the next issue of my monthly bulletin on the Drug Tariff, this month the hot topic is DNG - Discount Not Given!

Firstly I would like to clarify an issue that arose from last month's bulletin when I was explaining about the NCSO endorsement in our hot topic feature; this endorsement only applies to pharmacy contractors and not other contractors.

HOT SPOT

Focus on..... DNG for pharmacy contractors in England and Wales

Did you know that when you send off all your prescriptions at the end of the month the NHS automatically deducts a percentage from the cost you will be reimbursed?

The amount deducted from your total reimbursement depends on the total cost of the drugs you dispense in the month. There is a scale in the Drug Tariff (Part V) which indicates the percentage deduction, the higher your drugs cost is the greater the deduction you will receive. This may sound a little unfair but there is some logic behind it! If you dispense more then you will purchase more, and this normally grants you a larger discount from your wholesalers.

However, the Department of Health are aware that some drugs cannot be obtained at a discount so it would be unfair to be reimbursed at a reduced rate. They publish a list of drugs which will be reimbursed at full price in the Drug Tariff Part II (Drugs for which discount is not deducted).

There are two ways a drug may be listed in this section of the Tariff. One is under a list of categories for which discount is not deducted such as cytotoxics or cold chain storage; the second being listed as a named product. In the list of named products if an item has the word "all" next to it then all strengths are included. If the word "all" is not listed next to a product and multiple strengths are available, then only the product listed will be subject to full price payment. The lists can change from month to month so you will need to keep an eye on them.

What does it mean in your pharmacy?

Any prescriptions for unlicensed medicines or specials, which are not named in this section of the Drug Tariff but have been obtain without discount, can be reimbursed at the full price the pharmacy has paid to purchase them. However, you must ENDORSE the prescription with the letters "DNG" to be reimbursed the full price.

(The exceptions to this are any specials or unlicensed medicines sourced from within the UK which contain CD schedules 1, 2 or 3; endorsement is not required for full reimbursement)



Hot Spot Continued...

Déjà Vu?

Those of you who have been working in a pharmacy for some time may remember the old scheme where we used to endorse "ZD" for zero discount? The "DNG" scheme has replaced this in England and Wales, but, in Scotland it is still called the Zero Discount list.



Drug Tariff changes for May (England and Wales)

Drugs for which discount is not deducted

Fortum 2g and 3g powder for solution for injection vials have been added to the list

Common additions to part VIII

Donepezil orodispersible tablets sugar free; 5mg & 10mg strengths (Aricept Evess)
Fentanyl buccal tablets sugar free; 100, 200, 400, 600 & 800microgram strengths (Effentora)
Glucosamine hydrochloride 625mg tablets
Primidone 50mg tablets
Saxagliptin 5mg tablets
Sirolimus 500microgram tablets
Valsartan 40mg tablets

Common deletions to part VIII (England and Wales)

Calcipotriol 50micrograms/g cream 60g (120g pack still listed)
Metronidazole 0.8% gel 15g (Metrotop)
Oxybutynin 2.5mg/5ml oral solution 150ml (Ditropan)

NCSO May (England and Wales)

Bisacodyl 10mg suppositories
Gabapentin 100mg & 400mg capsules
Mebeverine 135mg tablets
Naftidrofuryl 100mg capsules
Prednisolone 5mg tablets

Common additions to part IXA (Appliances)

Aquacel Ribbon and Aquacel Ag ribbon 1cm X 45cm
Xerostom Saliva Substitute Gel

Common additions to part XV (borderline substances)

Multi-Thick - For the thickening of foods and fluids in dysphagia.

