

## Buttercups Monthly Drug Tariff Bulletin

From Emma Seton - November 2011



Welcome to the November issue.

I hope you are coming to terms with the new specials reimbursement arrangements outlined in October's bulletin. In addition to the resources I mentioned last month there is now help available from the PSNC on the topic, click here to access it: [http://www.psn.org.uk/news.php/1163/updated\\_unlicensed\\_specials\\_and\\_imports\\_guidance](http://www.psn.org.uk/news.php/1163/updated_unlicensed_specials_and_imports_guidance)

In this month's bulletin I will pick up from where we left off back in August and continue looking at endorsements; the focus will be on calendar packs and special containers.



### Focus on... Calendar packs and special containers for contractors in England and Wales

Under the Medicines Act you are required to supply the exact amount ordered by the prescriber. However, under NHS terms of service there are two cases when you can supply and be paid for a different amount: calendar packs and special containers.

#### What is a calendar pack?

They are blister packs which are marked with the days of the week against each dose unit. Sometimes they may be in strips of 7 or 14, but other times they may be a full pack of 28.



In England and Wales drugs included within Part VIII of the Tariff which are calendar packs are indicated with a symbol of a black diamond ◆

#### What is a special container?

Those products which are sterile, effervescent or hygroscopic; or where the original packs are not practical to split e.g. tubes, aerosols, sprays, dropper bottles etc.



In England and Wales drugs included within Part VIII which are special containers are indicated with a symbol of a black square ■

There is also a list in Part II of the Tariff of viscous bath preparations which have been designated as "special containers" because it is not practical to dispense the contents into another container.

## Hot Spot Continued...

What quantity should you dispense to get paid correctly?

### Calendar packs

If a prescription calls for 30 tablets of a drug which comes in strips of 14 you can supply:

30 tablets or 2x14 tablets only

Your client may be irritated if you only supply 28 tablets; you may be irritated at cutting up strips. It is a pretty unsatisfactory situation! Payment for calendar packs is based on the number of packs or strips nearest to the quantity ordered. If you supply 30 then you will need to endorse the prescription to show this, but if 28 are supplied then no endorsement is necessary.

### Special containers

Payment for special containers is based on the nearest number of packs - not the amount required to fulfil the order.

For example betamethasone valerate 0.1% lotion comes as a 100ml special container. If a prescription ordered 140mls then you would have to supply 100mls because that is the nearest pack to the prescribed quantity, if the prescription ordered 160mls then you would supply 2 X 100mls because it is the closest to the prescribed quantity. No endorsement is required because the nearest pack size will be assumed.

### The "half pack" rule and an exception to the nearest pack size.

So what if the prescribed quantity was exactly halfway between the pack size of the special container or calendar pack? Well you have to round down and supply the smaller pack.

An exception to supplying the nearest pack size occurs with antibiotics because the patient needs sufficient to take a full course! If 140ml of amoxicillin suspension is prescribed then 2 x 100ml may be claimed. Endorse the prescription 140ml supplied and claim 2x 100ml.

### Further information

The PSNC also has a resource to indicate which drugs are classed as calendar packs or special containers. Click on this link then you can search for either by typing in the product name. [http://www.psnc.org.uk/special\\_container\\_database.php](http://www.psnc.org.uk/special_container_database.php)

**HOT SPOT**





## Drug Tariff changes for November (England and Wales)

### Common additions to part VIII

Colecalciferol 200unit / Calcium carbonate 750mg tablets (Adcal D3)  
Loteprednol 0.5% eye drops (Lotemax)  
Nicotine 1mg/dose oromucosal spray sugar free (Nicorette Quickmist)  
Phenindione 25mg and 50mg tablets  
Prasugrel 5mg and 10mg tablets (EfiEnt)

### Common deletions to part VIII

Castor oil liquid 500ml  
Cortisone 25mg tablets 56 tabs  
Hydrogen peroxide 1.5% ear drops 10ml  
Hydrogen peroxide 6% solution 200ml  
Industrial methylated spirit 95% 2000ml  
Levothyroxine sodium 100micrograms/5ml oral solution sugar free 100ml  
Liquid paraffin liquid 2000ml  
Podophyllin paint 10ml  
Salicylic acid 2% lotion 500ml  
Salicylic acid 3% / Sulphur 3% ointment 500g  
Sodium chloride 0.9% solution 100ml  
Sucrose 1000g  
Syrup 2000ml

### Common additions to Part XV - Borderline Substances

Vichy Dermablend Foundation  
Fresubin 1500 Complete (formerly Fresubin Original Fibre)

### Common deletions to Part XV - Borderline Substances

Duobar (strawberry, neutral)

### Common deletions to Part IXR - Chemical Reagents

Prestige Smart System

### NCSO November

Bezafibrate 200mg tablets  
Tolbutamide 500mg tablets

