

## Buttercups Monthly Drug Tariff Bulletin

From Emma Seton - October 2011



Welcome to the October issue.

It's all change, change, change in the NHS! This month the PSNC and Department of Health have announced a new payment scheme for specials in England and Wales which will start on 1st November. Outlined in the hotspot is the initial information on how it will work, but more information will follow in the November Drug Tariff.

**HOT SPOT**

### **Focus on... New payment system for specials supplied by pharmacy contractors in England and Wales**

#### **Recap on what is a "special"**

"Specials" are unlicensed medicines which are produced by either a "specials manufacturer" who is licensed by the MHRA or they are produced as a one-off for a named patient on a prescription under the supervision of a pharmacist, called a section 10 exemption. (Note "section 10 specials" can also be produced by specials manufacturers who are registered as a pharmacy)

#### **What is going to change?**

From 1st November there will be two new systems to reimburse the dispensing of "specials". The new systems aim to be more transparent and link the cost of reimbursement to the cost of the product. It will also mean that many of the commonly prescribed expensive specials items will be more cost-effective to the NHS.

The first system will be a list of over 50 frequently dispensed, expensive specials in a new section of the Drug Tariff called Part VIII B. These products will be reimbursed at the price listed regardless of the cost to obtain them, and you will not be able to claim "broken bulk (BB)" or "discount not given (DNG)"

Be warned, you may need to shop around to purchase the item at a cost less than the list price!

## Hot Spot Continued...

The second system will be for all specials not listed in Part VIII B. The payment for these will depend on where the product has been obtained from:

- If obtained from a licensed specials manufacturer then you will be reimbursed the price paid. To obtain payment the prescription must also be endorsed with the following:
  - Invoice price less discount/rebates (the amount actually paid for the product)
  - Manufacturer's licence number
  - Batch number of the product

An additional flat rate payment of £20 to cover carriage can be claimed by endorsing SP on the prescription. (This is instead of out of pocket claims, which should no longer be used for specials)

- If produced under the Section 10 exemption then you will be paid according to the cost of the ingredients. To obtain payment the prescription must be endorsed with the names, quantities and cost of the ingredients used to prepare the item. Broken bulk can also be claimed on any ingredients used to manufacture the product.

An additional flat rate payment of £20 to cover extemporaneous dispensing fees (even if made by a third party) can be claimed by endorsing the prescription ED.

In summary to ensure correct payment for any product not listed in section VIII B you will need to know if the manufacturer has made the special under licence or under a section 10 exemption. When ordering from a specials manufacturer be sure to ask them. Alternatively if it is manufactured under licence then the product label must have the manufacturer's licence number on it, but if produced under section 10 exemption then it will not.

Regardless of which system is used to reimburse the item a professional fee will be paid for every special supplied, and CD or expensive item fees will still be paid as appropriate.

After the introduction of Part VIII B, category E will be deleted from the tariff section VIII A



## Hot Spot Continued...

### Record keeping

The current requirements for record keeping of specials will be expanded and you will now need to keep a record of the prescriber details which should be available for inspection by the PCT.

Also for specials not listed in Part VIII B, you need to stamp, date, initial and endorse the Certificate of Analysis/ Certificate of Conformity (supplied by the specials manufacturer) with the price paid and prescriber's details. At the end of each month copies of these certificates must be sent to the PCT of the prescriber.

### More information

Details of the scheme are available on the NHSBSA website and further information will be published in the November 2011 Drug Tariff, although there is advanced warning in the October Drug Tariff which contains the list that will be in section VIII B. <http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/3473.aspx>



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

### Common additions to part VIII

Alfacalcidol 2micrograms/ml oral drops sugar free (One Alpha)  
Clotrimazole 10% cream and Clotrimazole 2% cream (Canestan combi)  
Indometacin 75mg modified-release capsules  
Leuprorelin powder and solvent for suspension for injection pre-filled syringes, 3.75mg and 11.25mg (Prostap)  
Propiverine 30mg modified-release capsules (Dutrunorm XL)  
Salbutamol modified-release capsules, 4mg and 8 mg (Ventmax SR)  
Vancomycin capsules, 125mg and 250mg

### Common deletions to part VIII (England and Wales)

Cyclopentiazide 500microgram tablets  
Levothyroxine sodium 50 and 100microgram tablets  
1000 pack (28 pack still listed)  
Timolol 0.25% eye drops 0.2ml unit dose  
preservative free

### Drugs for which discount is not deducted, additions to the list

Rapamune tablets (ALL)  
Sirolimus tablets (ALL)  
Sumatriptan 6mg/0.5ml solution for injection pre-filled disposable devices  
Sumatriptan 6mg/0.5ml solution for injection pre-filled syringes with device

### NCSO October (England and Wales)

Lofepamine 70mg tablets  
Pseudoephedrine 60mg tablets

