

Buttercups Monthly Drug Tariff Bulletin

From Emma Seton - September 2011



Welcome to the September Issue. I warned last month about the changes being rolled out to the pharmacy contract in England on 1st October 2011 with the introduction of a New Medicines Service. Please be aware there will also be changes to the clinical governance aspects of the contract to include mandatory reporting of patient safety incidents to the National Patient Safety Agency and the requirement for a whistle blowing policy in your pharmacy.

For full details on the new contract click here: <http://www.psn.org.uk/pages/introduction.html>

This month I'm going to steer away from the specifics of the Drug Tariff to talk in more depth about Capacity Improvement Programme error payments that have been announced this month.

HOT SPOT

Focus on...Capacity Improvement Programme for pharmacy and dispensing contractors in England.

What is the Capacity Improvement Programme (CIP)?

This was a system rolled out from 2007 by the pricing division of the NHS for the reimbursement of prescriptions. The idea was it would increase the automation of the service and allow for electronic prescriptions to be processed once they were rolled out.

Does it work?

The principle of reimbursement is that you, as a contractor, will be paid for what is prescribed, but it is recognised that with the large volume of prescription items which have to be processed, it is inevitable that errors will occur. So occasionally payments may be slightly higher or slightly lower than they should be but they usually tend to average out as the errors are random.

So what is the CIP error payment for?

This month the Department of Health announced a payment package to acknowledge prescription pricing processing errors and any inconvenience caused by CIP for the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2011. The payment will take place in two stages:

Firstly each contractor open on 1st October 2011 will receive £1500 if open for a full two years prior to 31st March 2011 (any contractor only open for part of this period will receive £187.50 each quarter they were open)

Hot Spot Continued...

The second stage of payment requires a decision that needs to be made by each contractor...do you feel your payments over the two year period have been calculated to an acceptable level?

- ☺ If you are happy that your payments over this two year period are about right and you do not wish them to be rechecked then you will get paid a further £500 in January 2012 (or pro-rata if not open the full period).
- ☹ If you feel that you have experienced significant underpayments during this period then you are able to ask for a recheck on any number of named months. The request must be received by 31st December 2011. The pricing service will then also select an equal number of months of your submissions to recheck for comparison.

Upon rechecking if there is a net under payment (i.e. the month you asked to be rechecked balanced with the month they selected to recheck still show an underpayment) you will be paid for this. If it is greater than £750 then you will also received the additional £500 in January 2012.

BUT if they work out that there is a net overpayment then you will have that deducted and will not receive the January payment of £500.

So you have a dilemma ...think carefully before deciding what to do!



Take your money and run!

Or go chasing for more!



Full details of the scheme will be published in the October 2011 Drug Tariff

HOT SPOT



Drug Tariff changes for September (England and Wales)

Common additions to part VIII

Co-codamol 15mg/500mg capsules (Codipar)
Co-codamol 15mg/500mg effervescent tablets sugar (Codipar)
Polymyxin B 10,000units/g / Bacitracin 500units/g eye ointment (Polyfax)
Polymyxin B 10,000units/g / Bacitracin 500units/g ointment (Polyfax)
Proguanil 100mg / Atovaquone 250mg tablets (Malarone)
Sumatriptan 6mg/0.5ml solution for injection pre-filled disposable devices
Tramadol 100mg/ml oral drops

Common deletions to part VIII (England and Wales)

Aspirin 900mg / Metoclopramide 10mg oral powder sachets sugar free 20 pack (6 pack still listed)
Piroxicam 20mg orodispersible tablets sugar free 28 pack (30 pack still listed)

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

Demorem 4mg/5ml oral solution
Entocort 2mg/100ml enema
Proguanil 100mg/Atovaquone 250mg tablets
Also many of the specialist nutritional supplements and low-protein products within ranges such as Fortsip, Ensure, Fresubin, Nutrison and PKU have been added to the DNG section, there are too many to list here so check it out for yourself!

Deletions to part XVIIIA (Dental prescribers formulary)

Biotene Oralbalance Gel (a medical device listed in Part IXA)
Carmellose Gelatin Paste DPF
Nitrazepam Tablets BP

Additions to part XVIIIA (Dental prescribers formulary)

Azithromycin Capsules 250mg DPF
Azithromycin Tablets 250mg, 500mg DPF
Cetirizine Hydrochloride Oral Solution 5mg/5ml DPF
Loratadine Syrup 5mg/5ml DPF

NCSO September (England and Wales)

Lofepamine 70mg tablets
Moclobemide 150mg tablets
Mebeverine 135mg tablets

