

Community Pharmacy Bulletin

Date: 30 June 2023

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CPCS claim period change from 1st August 2023

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has announced from 1st August 2023, that Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) claims for payment should be submitted within one month of, and no later than three months from the claim period for the chargeable activity provided.

The change normalises the grace period for CPCS service claims from its previous position of six months to three months, which is the case for most of the other Advanced services.

This change will be reflected from the July Drug Tariff. Activity completed in May, June and July 2023 can be claimed until 5th December 2023.

Contractors should ensure they have reviewed and submitted any outstanding CPCS claims on the Manage Your Service portal, to avoid any potential service fee losses as a result of this reduced grace period for claims.

Sudan arrivals – Tuberculosis (TB) screening and other infectious disease recommendation

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) regularly reviews its guidance to ensure the latest situation assessments are taken into account for affected regions.

Following further review of this situation and confirmation by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) that Sudan is considered by the UK government to be a sub-Saharan African country, UKHSA have updated this document - 'Sudan arrivals – Tuberculosis (TB) screening and other infectious disease recommendation'.

The attached document to this bulletin includes a recommendation on Latent TB infection (LTBI) testing and consideration of additional infectious diseases. This replaces the previous version of this document.

Please note that the published list of countries eligible for the 'New Entrant Migrant LTBI Programme' ([appendix A of Technical Guidance and Specification](#)) will be updated to support the inclusion of Sudan as a sub-Saharan African country.

If you have any questions relating to the above please contact tbsection@ukhsa.gov.uk

Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) and changes of ownership

Please see below guidance on how to manage the Electronic Prescription Service when there is an ODS Code change following a change of ownership.

1. When a pharmacy changes ownership and/or there is a change of pharmacy details, this triggers a sequence of updates between the NHS BSA and the National reference files used by System suppliers (and NHS.UK website etc.).
2. Dependent on when the source BSA files were updated there can be anything up to a 12-day window before the new pharmacy ODS code shows up within the prescribing systems.
3. Note: If this is the case then although the new Pharmacy is not visible in the Prescriber system, the Pharmacy should be able to nominate themselves and receive electronic prescriptions. See more detail below regarding options for the GP practice in this situation.

4. Where there has been a change of ownership and the ODS code has changed provided the new owner and their computer supplier has been in touch with the EPS ODS team there is a mechanism to complete a bulk nomination transfer of existing nominations to the new owner's ODS code. The bulk transfer of nominations may not happen on the day the new owner commences providing services.
 5. The spine (in the cloud) is where electronic prescriptions sit after they have been sent by the GP until downloaded by a pharmacy.
 6. Prescriptions nominated to the original owner's ODS that were not pulled down from the spine will just remain there, they do not disappear. Any pharmacy, including the one under the new ownership, should be able to search for the prescriptions and download them.
 7. Where the GP cannot see the new ODS code on their clinical system and the patient wants the prescription to go to that pharmacy, the GP can create a non-nominated prescription. This will sit on the spine until the patient informs the pharmacy the prescription is there, and the pharmacy actively fetches it from the spine. If the GP is able to give the patient an EPS token, (a paper copy with a bar code) then that would make it a bit easier for the pharmacy to find the prescription on the spine but is not absolutely necessary. This is not ideal for the GP or pharmacy as it takes a bit longer, but it should only be necessary for a short time.
 8. The PSNC (now Community Pharmacy England) has published a checklist for pharmacy contractors to follow when an ODS code changes at: [PSNC Briefing 38/18: Change of pharmacy circumstance guide: ODS codes and planning required should your ODS code change - PSNC Website](#)
 9. It is possible to look and see if the new owner's ODS code has become live by looking on the ODS code portal [NHS Digital ODS Portal](#). Since the ODS code would be unknown, a search can be made by Postcode and / or address. Please remember that even if you find there is a new ODS code showing as active, for the reasons mentioned in paragraph 2 above, this does not necessarily mean the new code will show up in GP clinical systems or on the NHS website yet.
 10. Please remember when the pharmacy goes live following an ODS code change (e.g., new owner after a change of ownership) **the pharmacy need to claim for an electronic prescription as soon as possible** as this action triggers the new code to be flagged as EPS live on the NHSBSA system and enables other actions to take place.
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Interpretation and Translation Services

Interpretation and translation services are available for Community Pharmacies when treating NHS Patients. These services are commissioned and paid for by NHS England.

The attached briefing to this bulletin provides details on how to currently access these services. This information will shortly be available to access via the NHS South West Pharmacy website page via the following link [Interpretation & Translation Services](#)

The services commissioned cover the following areas:

- Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon, and Wiltshire (BSW)
 - Bristol, North Somerset, and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG)
 - Devon
 - Dorset
 - Gloucestershire
 - Cornwall & Isles of Scilly
 - Somerset
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New pharmacy record: over 5 million flu vaccinations administered

The NHS Business Services Authority has published the [Advanced Service Flu report](#) which shows that pharmacies administered **5,007,578** million vaccinations under the national Flu Vaccination Service in 2022/23. Whilst in 2021/22 the total number of vaccines administered in community pharmacies was 4.85 million.

The service has continued to achieve year-on-year growth in the number of vaccinations administered since it launched in 2015. A huge thank you to all contractors for their continued hard work and dedication to protect their local communities and our NHS.

Free prescriptions for over 60s

Ministers have [announced](#) that all those aged 60 and over will remain eligible for exemption from the NHS prescription charge. This is the Government's official response to a 2021 public consultation that recommended raising the free prescription threshold to meet the state pension age at age 66.

To read the full consultation outcome click here: [Consultation Outcome](#)

Blood Pressure Check Service – IT Update 1 September 2023

1 September 2023 start date for Blood Pressure Check Service API

If you are a contractor that is registered to provide the Blood Pressure Check Service please note that once the clinical IT systems go live with new API (Application Programming Interface) to automate payment claims and reporting data to the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA), the use of an approved IT system will become mandatory and the existing manual MYS claim process for the service will be retired.

All service provisions within June, July and August 2023 must be claimed by the current manual MYS process by Tuesday 5 September.

Please read the attached briefing which provides information about how this works. Further communication will follow in the run up to the start date to remind contractors.

Regulations & Quality

2023/24 Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework (CPAF) screening questionnaire

The 2023/24 Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework (CPAF) screening questionnaire will launch on Monday 3 July 2023.

It is now a regulatory requirement to complete the annual CPAF screening questionnaire.

The questions in this CPAF questionnaire, set by NHS England, are the same as last year's questionnaire to assess your compliance. You will be able to view a copy of the questionnaire on the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) [CPAF webpage](#) in advance of the go-live date. NHSBSA will contact all contractors when the questionnaire launches on Monday 3 July.

How to complete the CPAF screening questionnaire

If you have a [Manage Your Service](#) (MYS) portal account:

- You must log in to your MYS account to access the CPAF questionnaire.

If you have not signed up to MYS yet:

- NHSBSA will send a link to your NHS Mail shared pharmacy inbox.

You must complete the questionnaire no later than 11:59pm on Sunday 30 July 2023.

If you have any questions regarding the 2023/24 CPAF screening questionnaire, please email:

nhsbsa.pharmacysupport@nhs.net.

Healthy Living

NHS Digital Weight Management Programme: referrals from Community Pharmacy

The [NHS Digital Weight Management](#) Programme is still available to all community pharmacies in England, to refer eligible patients into; those with a BMI > 30 and diagnosis of hypertension or diabetes, or both.

Since 2021, over 12,560 referrals into this evidence-based programme have been received from community pharmacies. This is a huge achievement and contractors are encouraged to continue making referrals to support people to live a healthy lifestyle as part of their healthy living pharmacy activities.

Training & Education

NHS training offers for Community Pharmacy Professionals

New, fully funded, flexible training for community pharmacists is now available to help expand clinical skills and improve patient care.

Courses include:

- **Clinical Examination Skills** – offering a step towards Independent Prescribing and an opportunity to gain new specialist skills to increase your NHS role or to expand and refresh your diagnostic and consultation skills if you are already an IP.

Training is tailored to your skills, experience, and individual learning requirements.

Complete the gateway module in approximately 1 hour online, followed by one of four specialist modules in cardiology, pediatrics, ENT or dermatology.

Optional in-person, practical training sessions are also available.

- **Independent Prescribing** - training to support patients from diagnosis to prescribing, providing advice and follow-up, and preparing to provide clinical care.

Courses are offered by a range of universities and education providers.

Visit the [Community Pharmacy Training Page](#) for more information and to register.

Shortages

Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs)

- **Extension of SSP053 and SSP054 - clarithromycin 125mg/5ml and 250mg/5ml oral suspension**

Due to ongoing supply issues, the Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) are being extended for clarithromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension (SSP053) and clarithromycin 250mg/5ml oral suspension (SSP054), which are due to end today (23 June).

The new end date for these SSPs is Friday 21 July 2023.

Information on current SSPs is now available to view on the NHS Business Service Authority BSA's dedicated SSP web page along with supporting guidance:

- [Dedicated SSP web page](#)

The PSNC also have a lot of guidance on their website which you may find useful if you have queries:

- [Serious Shortage Protocols \(SSPs\)- PSNC Website](#)

If you have any questions regarding SSPs please contact the NHS Prescription Service:

- Email: nhsbsa.prescriptionservices@nhsbsa.nhs.uk
- Telephone: 0300 330 1349
- Textphone: 18001 0300 330 1349

DHSC Medicine Supply Notifications

GLP-1 receptor agonists* used in the management of type 2 diabetes.

- Tier 3 – high impact
- Date of issue: 27/06/2023
- Further information and action to be taken on this supply notification can be found via [Medicines Supply Tool](#).

Summary

- There are very limited, intermittent supplies of all glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1 RAs) licensed in the management of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM).
- Supply is not expected to return to normal until at least mid-2024.
- The supply issues have been caused by an increase in demand for these products for licensed and off-label indications.
- Please refer to the SPS Tool for Medicines Shortages for an up-to-date supply stock situation and clinical guidance on alternative treatment options.

Paracetamol Suppositories

- Tier 2 – Medium impact
- Date of issue: 29/06/2023
- Further information and action to be taken on this supply notification can be found via [Medicines Supply Tool](#).

Summary

- Paracetamol 60mg suppositories are out of stock until w/c 1st April 2024.
- Paracetamol 125mg suppositories are out of stock until October 2023.
- Paracetamol 240mg suppositories are out of stock until w/c 10th July 2023.
- Paracetamol 250mg suppositories will be out of stock from August 2023 until October 2023.
- Paracetamol 120mg suppositories remain available.
- Paracetamol 500mg and 1000mg suppositories (Typharm) remain available.
- Unlicensed supplies of paracetamol 60mg,80mg,125mg,240mg and 250mg suppositories may be sourced, lead times vary.

Diazepam 10mg/2.5ml rectal solution tubes

- Tier 2 – Medium impact
- Date of issue: 29/06/2023
- Further information and action to be taken on this supply notification can be found via [Medicines Supply Tool](#).

Summary

- Diazepam 10mg/2.5ml rectal solution tubes will be out of stock from mid-July until mid-August 2023.
- Certain strengths of midazolam oromucosal solution pre-filled syringes remain available and will be able to support increased demand.
- Diazepam 5mg/2.5ml rectal solution tubes remain available and will be able to support increased demand.
- Where these are not suitable, unlicensed supplies of diazepam 10mg/2.5ml rectal solution tubes may be sourced, lead times vary.

DHSC and NHSE/I have now launched an online [Medicines Supply Tool](#), which provides up to date information about medicine supply issues. The contents of these MSNs can now be viewed on the Tool. The Tool also details any changes to resupply dates and updates to the entries. To access the Tool, you will be required to register with the [SPS website](#).

The Medicine Supply Tool is moving on the SPS website. Update your links and bookmark its new home in the 'Tools' section: <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/home/tools/medicines-supply-tool/>

Digital & Technology

NHS Smart Card Renewal

If you have received automated messages about NHS smartcard renewal, please renew them as soon as possible.

If NHS Digital do not manage to increase the rate of renewal now, it will inevitably result in a rush of users requiring smartcard renewals through the Care Identity Service with increasing urgency.

This could lead to delays in access to systems and services, due to backlogs of renewals being requested for processing by Registration Authorities. Any impact on the Care Identity Service will not affect authentication and

access to clinical systems for users with a valid smartcard. Please use the link for smartcard renewals: [Self-renewal NHS smartcard service - NHS Digital](#)

Email Correspondence – Signature Details

Please can you ensure when communicating with the South West Collaborative Commissioning Hub's Community Pharmacy Team you include the following details within your correspondence to help us with responding to your enquiry. Many thanks.

- Contact Name
- Name of Contractor
- ODS Code (F Code)

Useful Information

Complaints and Incidents

The Southwest Region Community Pharmacy Contract Management Team receive a high volume of complaints and incidents. To ensure we provide the best patient experience and adhere to our quality and improvement processes it is imperative all pharmacies respond within the required deadline so all complaints and incidents can be investigated and resolved as soon as possible.

All complaints and incidents will be reported through the pharmacy's NHS mail account so please ensure your pharmacy is checking the account daily.

If a community pharmacy is asked to report on an investigation, they will be required to respond within 10 working days of receiving the request.

Contact Details and Further Information

South West Collaborative Commissioning Hub Community Pharmacy Contract Management Team contact information: email: england.pharmacysouthwest@nhs.net

Website: [South West Community Pharmacy information](#) for more further information, blank templates, forms, and documents.