

Dear Colleague

NHS ENGLAND HORMONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY PRE-PAYMENT CERTIFICATES (HRT PPCs)

Summary

1. This Circular advises NHS Boards and community pharmacy contractors of the new hormone replacement therapy Pre-Payment Certificates that have been introduced in NHS England in April 2023.

2. People visiting from England may attend a community pharmacy with a prescription for dispensing and may hold an HRT PPC. This circular outlines action that pharmacy teams should take to ensure correct processing of forms and reimbursement.

Background

3. On 1 April 2023, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) introduced a new Prescription Prepayment Certificate (PPC) to reduce the cost of hormone replacement therapy (HRT) for people in England.

4. The PPC covers specific listed HRT products, not all HRT. The certificate will be valid for 12 months and covers an unlimited number of listed HRT medicines for the cost of two single prescription charges.

5. These arrangements only relate to the dispensing of NHS England FP10 prescription forms.

HRT products

6. When a person presents with an NHS England HRT PPC, pharmacy contractors should check that the person's prescribed products are covered by the HRT PPC. For a list of eligible HRT medication, visit:

www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hrt-ppc-medicines

28 April 2023

Addresses

For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards

For information

NHS Directors of Pharmacy
Director of Practitioner
Services, NHS NSS

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7. The current list of products is attached as **Annex A**. **It should be noted that the list of eligible HRT medication is subject to change. Any HRT product not listed will attract the usual NHS England prescription charge unless the person has another form of exemption.**

FP10 forms and the exemption box

8. Current stocks of the FP10 prescription forms are still being used up but a new FP10 form will shortly be available. The new FP10 will include an exemption box 'W', to enable people with a valid HRT PPC to claim the exemption to which they are entitled. **Annex B** contains an example of the new FP10 form with exemption box 'W'.

9. If the prescription form received is the old version without a box for HRT PPC, a person should tick box 'F' instead. Selecting box F (prescription prepayment certificate) must only be used when all the items on the prescription are for listed HRT only.

10. From 1 April, prescribers have been asked to ensure all listed HRT items should be prescribed as single-item prescriptions (i.e. separate from all other prescription items, including other listed HRT items) to allow people to claim the exemption correctly. The [NHS BSA guidance](#) states that where a person holds a valid HRT PPC and presents a mixed prescription it should be returned to the prescriber so that separate prescriptions can be issued. HRT and chargeable items cannot be dispensed from a single prescription where the person is claiming exemption from charges because they hold a valid HRT PPC.

11. However, where the person is visiting Scotland it may not be practicable for them to receive a new prescription from their prescriber. The [BSA guidance](#) says pharmacists may, at their discretion, dispense urgent items on the mixed prescription. Where it is not possible to obtain a new prescription from the prescriber and the person needs the items during their visit, the following process should be followed:

- If the non-HRT items are urgent, the appropriate charge should be levied.
- If the HRT items are urgent, these can be dispensed free of charge against a valid HRT PPC.
- Items not supplied should be marked 'not dispensed' or 'ND'.
- The person should request new prescriptions for any items not dispensed.
- If all items are required urgently the only option is for a person to pay for all items and claim a refund when they return to England.

Actions

12. Pharmacy contractors are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the process for new NHS England HRT PPCs and to read the [BSA guidance](#).

13. NHS Boards are asked to copy this Circular to all community pharmacy contractors on their pharmaceutical list.

PCA(P)(2023)18

14. The content of this Circular has been agreed with Community Pharmacy Scotland.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alison Strath', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alison Strath
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer
Pharmacy & Medicines Division

ANNEX A - List of products covered by HRT PPC as at April 2023

The extract below is from the English Drug Tariff, April 2023. Products listed are subject to change and the current list should always be checked prior to dispensing to ensure pharmacies are properly reimbursed.

The list of products is published in the [English Drug Tariff Part XVI](#) and also published at [Medicines covered by the HRT PPC | NHSBSA](#)

Product name	Ingredient	Method of delivery
Bedol	(Estradiol 2mg)	Oral Tablet
Bijuve/Bijuva	(Estradiol 1mg; Micronised Progesterone 100mg)	Oral Tablets
Blissel	(Estradiol 50mcg)	Vaginal Gel
Climanor	(Medroxyprogesterone 5mg)	Oral Tablet
Clinorette	(Estradiol 2mg; Norethisterone 1mg)	Oral Tablets
Elleste Duet	(Estradiol 1mg and 2mg; Norethisterone 1mg)	Oral Tablets
Elleste Duet Conti	(Estradiol 2mg; Norethisterone 1mg)	Oral Tablets
Elleste Solo	(Estradiol 1mg and 2 mg)	Oral Tablet
Estraderm MX	(Estradiol 25mcg, 50mcg, 75mcg and 100mcg)	Patch
Estradot	(Estradiol 25mcg, 37.5mcg, 50mcg, 75mcg and 100mcg)	Patch
Estring (90-day preparation)	(Estradiol 7.5mcg/24 hours)	Vaginal Pessary
Estriol	(Estriol 0.01%)	Vaginal Cream
Evorel	(Estradiol 25mcg, 50mcg, 75mcg and 100mcg)	Patch
Evorel Conti	(Estradiol 50mcg; Norethisterone 170mcg)	Patch
Evorel Sequi	(Estradiol 50mcg; Norethisterone 170mcg)	Patch
Femoston	(Estradiol 1mg and 2mg; Dydrogesterone 10mg)	Oral Tablets
Femoston Conti	(Estradiol 50mcg and 1mg; Dydrogesterone 2.5mg and 5mg)	Oral Tablets
Femseven	(Estradiol 50mcg, 75mcg, 100mcg)	Patch
Femseven Conti	(Estradiol 50mcg; Levonorgestrel 7mcg)	Patch
FemSeven Sequi	(Estradiol 50mcg; Levonorgestrel 10mcg)	Patch
Gina	(Estradiol 10mcg)	Vaginal Pessary
Imvaggis	(Estriol 30mcg)	Vaginal Pessary
Indivina	(Estradiol 1mg and 2mg; Medroxyprogesterone 2.5mg and 5mg)	Oral Tablets
Kliefem	(Estradiol 2mg; Norethisterone 1mg)	Oral Tablets
Kliovance	(Estradiol 1mg; Norethisterone 500mcg)	Oral Tablets
Lenzetto	(Estradiol 1.53mg)	Spray
Mirena	(Levonorgestrel 20mcg/24 hours)	Intra-uterine System
Novofem	(Estradiol 1mg; Norethisterone 1mg)	Oral Tablets
Oestrogel/dose	(Estradiol 0.06%)	Gel
Ovestin	(Estriol 1mg)	Vaginal Cream
Premarin	(Conjugated oestrogen 300mcg, 625mcg and 1.25mg)	Oral Tablet
Premique Low Dose	(Conjugated oestrogen 300mcg; Medroxyprogesterone 1.5mg)	Oral Tablets
Progynova	(Estradiol 1mg and 2mg)	Oral Tablet
Progynova TS	(Estradiol 50mcg and 100mcg)	Patch
Sandrena	(Estradiol 500mcg and 1mg)	Gel
Tridestra	(Estradiol 2mg; Medroxyprogesterone 20mg)	Oral Tablets
Trisequens	(Estradiol 2mg/2mg/1mg; Norethisterone 1mg)	Oral Tablets
Utrogestan	(Micronised Progesterone 100mg and 200mg)	Oral Tablet
Vagifem	(Estradiol 10mcg)	Vaginal Pessary
Vagirux	(Estradiol 10mcg)	Vaginal Pessary
Zumenon	(Estradiol 1mg and 2mg)	Oral Tablet

ANNEX B - new version of FP10 prescription form showing 'W' exemption box

When should I pay?

You must pay if none of the statements / specific exemptions listed apply to you on the day you were asked to pay. These are the only accepted reasons for not paying.

I'm not sure if I should pay

Pay and ask for a **prescription refund form (FP57)**. You can't get one later. If you find you didn't need to pay, you can claim a refund up to 3 months later.

What if I don't pay when I should?

We check claims made for free prescriptions. If we can't confirm that you are entitled to exemption from prescription charges, you may be issued a Penalty Charge Notice and you may have to pay up to £100 as well as your prescription charge(s), and you could be prosecuted.

Can I get help to pay?

You could also save money by buying a prescription prepayment certificate, or a HRT only prescription prepayment certificate.

Is my exemption certificate still valid?

Visit www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/exemption to see what help is available or ask at your GP surgery or pharmacy.

I am unable to collect my prescription

If you are unable to collect your prescription someone can do so on your behalf. Your representative should complete the 'If you paid' box and sign the form, or you or your representative should complete the 'If you didn't pay' box, and your representative should sign the form. Your representative will need to put a cross in the 'on behalf of patient' box next to their signature.

Why did the pharmacy ask to see evidence?

We need to check your exemption is valid. The NHS Business Services Authority is responsible for this service. We will use your information to check your exemption is valid, pay the dispenser and help plan and improve NHS services. Find out more at www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/yourinformation

Report side effects - the Yellow Card scheme

Report suspected side effects to medicines and medical device incidents to the MHRA Yellow Card scheme: mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard

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If you paid Enter amount paid and sign below £ -

If you didn't pay Mark a line in one box and sign below

A is 60 years of age or over **or** is under 16 years of age (unless your date of birth is printed on the form)

B is 16, 17 or 18 **and** in full time education

D Maternity exemption certificate

E Medical exemption certificate

F Prescription prepayment certificate

W HRT **only** prescription prepayment certificate

G Ministry of Defence prescription exemption certificate

L HC2 (full help) certificate

H Income Support **or** Income-related Employment and Support Allowance

K Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance

M Tax Credit exemption certificate

S Pension Credit Guarantee Credit (including partners)

U Universal Credit **and** meets the criteria. *Find out more at www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/UC*

Read the declaration and sign the form

The information I have given is correct and complete and I confirm proper entitlement to exemption.

! I understand that if I falsely claim, I may be issued a Penalty Charge Notice, and I may have to pay up to £100 - as well as my prescription charge(s).

I understand the NHS Business Services Authority may use and share my information within the NHS and with relevant Government bodies to check for fraud and mistakes. Find out more at: www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/yourinformation

Signature Date On behalf of patient

SIGNATURE OF COLLECTOR OF SCHEDULE 2 & 3 CDs PHARMACY USE ONLY EVIDENCE NOT SEEN