

DISPEX Gazette

YOUR MONTHLY DISPENSARY GAZETTE

News and Updates on Dispensing Doctor Issues

HAPPY NEW YEAR



www.dispex.net

DISPEX

Dispex are now members of
The CPD Certification Service

CPD MEMBER

The CPD Certification
Service

The New Year, is normally all about making 'big' resolutions, but after another difficult year, please be kind to yourself when setting your goals and resolutions! As we continue to manage the ever changing guidelines and mandates, which seem to escalate on an almost daily basis, life is unlikely to return to normal or even the "the new normal" anytime soon! But, be **positive**, set goals and targets, but maybe look at more realistic personal targets?

On a professional note, Dispex can help set achievable goals, especially for those that process the practice's prescriptions, with our NEW interactive Dispex Education course; **Training for Prescription Clerks in Primary Care.**

Launching later this month, this new course aims to up-skill and empower individuals, as well as helping to standardise this important area! Our new course is Certified by **The CDP Certification Service** and offers 6 hours of educational content, which can be worked

on over several weeks of PLT! Plus we are hosting a FREE 30 minute course introduction webinar- please see page 2 for details.

We can also help Practice, Finance and Dispensary Managers develop professional knowledge via our convenient "**bitesize**" tutorials, which have proven to be incredibly popular during the pandemic. Don't forget, Dispex members are entitled to a discount on all bespoke courses and tutorials- please see page 4 for our upcoming schedule.

So here's to starting the year on a positive note!

Happy New Year

Claudy Rodhouse

Dispex Design and Editorial Contributor

The Dispensary Gazette

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NEW for 2022



Training for Prescription Clerks in Primary Care

This course is aimed at both new and experienced Prescription Clerks as well as Receptionists who occasionally process repeat prescription requests and is CPD Certified. This auto-marked programme will give you the information and understanding needed to be an integral part of the primary care team and will allow you to become more confident in your job.

Course Objectives

1. To understand confidentiality, Information Governance and GDPR Regulations
2. To learn about the roles and responsibilities of staff handling prescription requests
3. To learn about the different types of prescriptions and their regulations
4. To understand the ways of requesting repeat prescriptions
5. To look at the journey of a prescription from request to completion
6. To ensure accurate communication with all involved in the prescription process
7. To be able to deal with significant events and near misses

Dispex Members: AVAILABLE FOR JUST £60pp

- ✓ Auto-enrolment with an immediate start
- ✓ CERTIFIED by The CPD Certification Service
- ✓ Six hours of educational content
- ✓ Fully online
- ✓ Study from anywhere, at any time
- ✓ Perfect for an introduction to a subject or a subject refresher
- ✓ Great addition to your CV
- ✓ Receive a certificate upon completion

Register your
interest via email
training@dispex.net

£60 inc VAT -Per Dispex member
£120 inc VAT - Per Non-member

*Once fully completed, you will be able to print
your Certificate of Completion*



FREE intro Webinar- see the next page



FREE Intro Session!

Training for Prescription Clerks in Primary Care

We are offering all Prescription Clerks & Receptionists the opportunity to attend our free **30 minute** introduction webinar! This session will summarise the objectives of our new Prescription Clerks course and explain why it's beneficial for the individual and the whole team!

Wednesday, 23rd Feb 12.00-12.30pm

Wednesday, 20th April 12.00-12.30pm

(Register and pay for the online course before or after the free webinar)

The online course and intro sessions are suitable for Prescription Clerks & Receptionists based in both dispensing AND prescribing branches!

Webinar book here - 23.2.22 20.4.22

JANUARY'S

Top Dispensary Tips

January in Dispensing Practice:

Straight into the New year in dispensing practice there can often be a brief few days of relative calm. The collection of medications in time for Christmas and New year has often meant a lot of patients may have collected early.

Using this time well, is key for setting up the New year. In my dispensary I use what time I can in January to undertake a few key tasks:

- **Set up the new date checking matrix in a prominent location.** I like to display this on the safety information board. Ensure all date checking is up to date and properly logged. Have a good tidy of shelves and stock rotate as you go. File away last years date checking records.
- **DO DRUMS.** If you are yet to have completed the DRUMS for the year, then set aside a target of hitting this by the end of January. Utilise any promo material you have to encourage participation from your eligible patients and engage the dispensary team. Have a big stack of DRUM forms beside the dispensary hatch or window and complete with all eligible patients at the point of collecting medicines! **New to DRUMS** then consider attending a Dispex DRUMS tutorial- click [here](#) for details

- If not already done so then get your audit for DSQS underway. **New to DSQS** then consider attending a Dispex DSQS tutorial- click [here](#) for details
- Check through shelves to see if any uncollected medicines remain from over 2 months ago and contact patients to collect or remove issue.
- Set your calendar's up for the year with important dates such as care / nursing home ordering dates and important deadlines.
- Wherever possible destroy old records no longer needing to be stored. Such as old invoices or CD registers. Check [sps.nhs.uk](https://www.sps.nhs.uk) for the guidance on retention of records.
- **Look after your team.** Set dates for appraisals with the team and check in with each other. Make sure there is up to date employee guidance and wellbeing information on display.
- Check patient notice boards all have relevant and up to date information on them.

Setting the New Year up as you mean to go on is key with all the uncertainty we are facing with the current health crisis.

Stay safe, Kirstye.

2022 ONLINE TUTORIALS

Live dispensary Training with a Dispex tutor



Each session is limited to 12 delegates!

New Schedule

Welcome to a new year of training! We have recently reviewed and updated all course materials to ensure we are delivering the most relevant and up-to-date information. Our range of 1- hour "bitesize" tutorials conveniently run over the lunchtime period and are hosted by welcoming and knowledgeable Dispex tutors.

Please note, it is not essential to attend course parts in order, as they have been designed to be stand-alone sessions and the full learning benefit will still be achieved. Non-members are still able to attend our tutorials and can book online!

January

- 12th Jan- Controlled Drugs Part 1
- 13th Jan- Practical Dispensary Management Part 2
- 19th Jan- Understanding Profitability Part 2
- 20th Jan- DSQS
- 26th Jan- Drug Tariff & Endorsing
- 27th Jan- Intro to Practice Finance Part 1

February

- 2nd Feb- Dispensary Customer Service Part 1
- 3rd Feb- Business Management of a Dispensary Part 1
- 8th Feb- NHSBSA Endorsing inc Referred Backs (W)
- 9th Feb- Controlled Drugs Part 2
- 10th Feb- SOPs
- 16th Feb- Understanding Profitability Part 3
- 17th Feb- Practical Dispensary Management Part 3
- 23rd Feb- DRUMS
- 23rd Feb- Prescription Clerks Intro (W) 12:00-12:30
- 24th Feb- Intro to Practice Finance Part 2
- 24th Feb- DispexCD Webinar (W) 11:30-12:30

March

- 2nd Mar- Drug Tariff & Endorsing
- 3rd Mar- Business Management of a Dispensary Part 2
- 9th Mar- Dispensary Customer Service Part 2
- 10th Mar- NHSBSA Batch & Switching (W)
- 16th Mar- Practical Dispensary Management Part 1
- 23rd Mar- DSQS
- 24th Mar- Intro to Practice Finance Part 1
- 30th Mar- Controlled Drugs Part 1
- 31st Mar- Business Management of a Dispensary Part 3

April

- 6th Apr- Dispensary Customer Service Part 1
- 7th Apr- SOPs
- 13th Apr- Controlled Drugs Part 2
- 14th Apr- Practical Dispensary Management Part 1
- 20th Apr- Drug Tariff & Endorsing
- 20th Apr- Prescription Clerks Intro (W) 12:00-12:30
- 21st Apr- Intro to Practice Finance Part 2
- 27th Apr- Practical Dispensary Management Part 2
- 28th Apr- DRUMS



HOW TO BOOK:

COURSE TIMES ARE 1-2PM

Please book online at dispex.net/training

Dispex members price: **£45+vat** Non- members price: **£60+vat**

(Per delegate-per session/part) W = free webinar

DRUMS

This tutorial will cover the main aims of DRUMS and will provide guidance on how to carry out a professional and successful DRUM.

Ensure with certainty that the quality and safety for your patients remains priority.

SOPS

This NEW tutorial will reiterate the importance of SOPs and will provide guidance on how to ensure the quality and consistency of existing dispensary SOPs and will provide top tips on when and how to update them.

CONTROLLED DRUGS

CD PART 1

By the end of this course you will have achieved an understanding of: Controlled Drugs legislation and classification, policies and SOP's, how to complete the CD Register, dealing with the receipt, supply and destruction. How to identify discrepancies, reporting or whistle-blowing. CD storage and travelling with CD's plus prescription writing requirements.

CD PART 2

By the end of this course you will have achieved an understanding of: Process of ordering, requisition & supplier requirements.

The CD Register, patients returns recording & destruction, plus the correction of errors, ensuring safety & legal requirements.

DRUG TARIFF & ENDORSING

DRUG TARIFF

This training will give you insight as to why stock control is essential to profitability. We will discuss what to look for in controlling your stock and how to implement ideas to remain in charge of it.

It will help you identify more clearly any avoidable losses, as well as improving cash flow.

DISPENSARY CUSTOMER SERVICE

DCS PART 1

This Tutorial will give ideas and processes to implement more effective team working, as well as improving communication skills, including non-verbal communication skills. To help manage conflict and the difficult patient scenarios.

DCS PART 2

Part 2 of this Tutorial will provide important guidance on confidentiality, some effective telephone techniques, the law on data Protection and what the Caldicott principles are. Also covered are some helpful suggestions on managing complaints appropriately.



Generics Costing More Than Tariff and Concessions A DISPEX SOLUTION

JANUARY 2022

There has been a big jump in the number of generic products whose acquisition cost is greater than the new category M January prices.

This may be due to a combination of factors, including the reduction in reimbursement price of 621 Category M products, as well as inflationary pressures due to supply issues.

Dispex publishes an updated monthly list of Generics Costing more than Tariff and there are 135 products on the list.

When you take the Discount Abatement (Clawback) into consideration, this number jumps to 225 products!

Dispex Informatics has produced a guide to assist you to deal with these potential losses - Generics Costing More Than Tariff, and Concessions – a Dispex Solution!

Members can login to read in full:
dispex.net/informatics/generics-costing-more-than-tariff-a-dispex-solution/

During the month NHSBSA Prescription Services (PS) publish Concession prices for that month. These are the prices at which those selected products will be reimbursed only for that particular month. In order to reduce losses to DDs, the dispensers can change the script to a generic brand or generic manufacturer and the doctor needs to initial the change. Members can simply login and head to the [Informatics page](#) to read in full, non- members can [join online](#)!



Dispex have partnered with Paragon skills, a leading training provider in the healthcare sector, to provide a unique training and development opportunity which also leaves you in credit!

The partnership provides an end to end recruitment and training package that also affords you access to government funding and incentive bonuses worth thousands of pounds per person. This can be applied equally to new employees as it can to existing ones whom you wish to upskill.

As a dispensing practice you can access this today. You'll have;

- Free access to Paragons recruitment service if required,
- Earn £3000 or £4000 per person in government bonuses
- Enjoy 1 years employers national insurance holiday for learner under 25
- Access to the apprentice wage rates
- Free [Dispex dispensing course](#)
- 95% or 100% course funding for business administration or customer service practitioner
- Statistically proven higher rates of engagement and retention of staff

Our partners Paragon Skills are a multi award winning provider of apprenticeship courses with a primary focus on healthcare and education. They deliver thousands of accredited courses every year to junior and senior members of staff across England. It is through this partnership that we can provide a host of financial, learning, recruitment and retention benefits.

As Alistair Ling of Paragon explains, "we have taken the apprenticeship model, expanded it and then tailored it to the medical practice sector.

From a financial perspective, apprenticeships are an obvious choice. The training is first rate, the courses are free or require a tiny contribution and the government will pay the employer thousands of pounds for each person they enrol.

When you add the Dispex Dispensing Course and a free recruitment service, it becomes too compelling to ignore. And not surprisingly it's hugely popular. I developed this scheme about 18 months ago for another part of the pharmacy sector and hundreds of people have benefited since."

A key component here is of course the government incentives. Currently these apply to newer members of staff who joined the practice after the 1st October. These people will need to be enrolled on their course by March next year to qualify but the remainder of the benefits will be enduring and new learners under 19 years of age will still earn their employer £1000 per enrolment.



"From an apprenticeship providers perspective we see the impact of our courses in a slightly different light. Apprenticeships are now mainstream and the antiquated image of a school leaver looking for a trade has long since passed. Not only have apprenticeships become a viable alternative to going to university but a much more attractive and affordable way of getting a degree -and age is no barrier"

"There is also a wealth of evidence to support the fact that apprentices are far less likely to leave their role in the first 2 years and I know from first hand experience that those organisations offering a recognised qualification to their new recruits make the job of securing good talent a great deal easier.

If you would like to understand more about this programme drop Alistair a line at alistair.ling@pgon.co.uk or give him a call on 07805 669243. If you want a call back don't forget to leave a direct number.



DISPEX
EDUCATION

dispexeducation.theskillsnetwork.com/



Training for New Dispensers and Apprentices

This course is accredited by the Dispensing Doctors Association

This auto-marked programme will give you the knowledge you need to understand Dispensing in a Dispensing Doctor setting. This course is suitable for newly qualified Dispensers or it can run alongside the undertaking of a NVQ2 qualification. This course is accredited by the Dispensing Doctors Association, and meets the training requirements for individuals involved with the dispensing process.

Dispex Members: AVAILABLE FOR JUST £120.00 pp or FREE via our new Paragon Offer*

- ✓ Auto-enrolment with an immediate start
- ✓ Thirty hours of educational content
- ✓ Fully online
- ✓ Study from anywhere, at any time
- ✓ Perfect for an introduction to a subject or a subject refresher
- ✓ Great addition to your CV
- ✓ Receive a certificate upon completion
- ✓ Official Dispensing Doctors' Association CPD certified course

The sections below cover all the relevant knowledge and skills needed to start out in a dispensing practice as either a new dispenser or an apprentice.

1. Dispensing - The Legal Stuff
2. The Need for Accuracy
3. The Prescription
4. Preparing Prescriptions
5. Owings and Ordering Stock
6. Handing Out Prescriptions, Delivery Services and Filing Prescriptions
7. Quality Standards -DSQS and SOPs
8. Cold Chain and Handling Hazardous substances
9. Controlled Drugs
10. Controlled Drugs Waste Management
11. Drug Alerts

£120 inc VAT -Per Dispex member

£240 inc VAT - Per Non-member

Once fully completed, you will be able to print your DDA Accredited Certificate of Completion



Apprentices recruited by Paragon will be eligible for free access to this 30 hour course which will give candidates the confidence to understand the complexities of dispensing and work in dispensaries*.

To discuss employing an Apprentice, please contact Alistair Ling directly- alistair.ling@pgon.co.uk
www.paragonskills.co.uk

Making Sense of Personally Administered Items and VAT- Unravelling the Mystery

A Comprehensive Guide to Personally Administered Items & VAT for Dispensing Practices

This auto-marked programme will give you the knowledge you need to understand PAs and VAT in a dispensing doctor setting. This comprehensive course is suitable for those that already have some experience with PAs and VAT.

Dispex Members- AVAILABLE FOR JUST £90.00 pp

- ✓ Auto-enrolment with an immediate start
- ✓ CERTIFIED by The CPD Certification Service
- ✓ Four hours of educational content
- ✓ Fully online
- ✓ Study from anywhere, at any time
- ✓ Great addition to your CV
- ✓ Receive a certificate upon completion

Part one aim:

- To be able to distinguish a Personally Administered (PA) item easily
- To understand how NHSBSA Prescription Services (NHSBSA) distinguish PAs
- To understand how the NHSBSA reimburse the VAT equivalent on PAs

- To understand the dispensing and prescribing rules pertaining to PAs
- To gain easy access to a list of more commonly prescribed PAs as deemed by the NHSBSA

Part two aim:

- To understand how HMRC distinguish PAs items
- To understand how practices should deal with PAs for their VAT returns
- To understand the different categories of VAT and how they apply to medications dispensed by Dispensing Doctors (DDs)

Part three aim:

- To explore the possible ways of dealing with PAs and VAT depending upon how PAs are interpreted by HMRC and by NHSBSA independently.

£90 inc VAT -Per Dispex member
£180 inc VAT - Per Non-member

Once fully completed, you will be able to print your Certificate of Completion



How to get started?

Dispex members will need to contact the Dispex team for a 50% discount code. Then head to the Dispex Education page [here](#) and register each individual student (one at a time) and follow the online booking instructions. Please note, you will need to make a payment at the time of registration-the prices quoted online are inclusive of VAT! If you encounter any issues please contact the Dispex office on training@dispex.net

Learn at your own pace!!

DispexCD

The online CD register

**ONE FREE ACCOUNT
ON RENEWAL***

Saving £18+vat per month



FREE FOR

DISPEX MEMBERS

- One free account per member (offer commencing Oct 2021 and only from your renewal date thereafter)*
- branch site(s) annual fee £216+vat
- no setup costs
- no extra support costs
- Includes **Returns** registers

NON - MEMBERS

3 months free trial, followed by an annual fee of £216+vat

NOTHING TO INSTALL, EASY TO SETUP

DispexCD runs on your computer's existing internet browser, allowing you to save space and eliminate the need for paper CD registers and CD returns registers. Simply register online and get started in minutes, using the computers already in your dispensary, or a tablet or smartphone. **PLEASE NOTE: You must register with the dispensary@nhs.net address!!**

WHY SWITCH FROM PAPER TO ELECTRONIC CD REGISTERS?

SAVE TIME - bring more efficiency to your dispensing process. It means you can potentially save hours per month on the simple to use & time optimised system.

SAVE MONEY-Dispensaries can save an average of £30 per month by using DispexCD instead of paper CD registers.

REDUCE ERRORS- By eliminating calculation errors and misread hand-writing, dispensaries using DispexCD have fewer CD discrepancies and errors.

SAFE & SECURE- Multiple layers of security and encryption plus daily back ups to protect your patient data.

FULLY COMPLIANT-Unlike some online CD registers, DispexCD is fully legally compliant and supports NICE best practice for the management of controlled drugs. Ace your next inspection with DispexCD in your Dispensary.

BEST PRICE - No cheaper price for a CD register

EXTRAS - includes Returns registers " It's best practice to record returns"

Please click [here](#) to view a demo site and to register!!

24.2.22

FREE DispexCD WEBINAR

Not made the digital switch!? Attend our free webinar to hear the why and how!

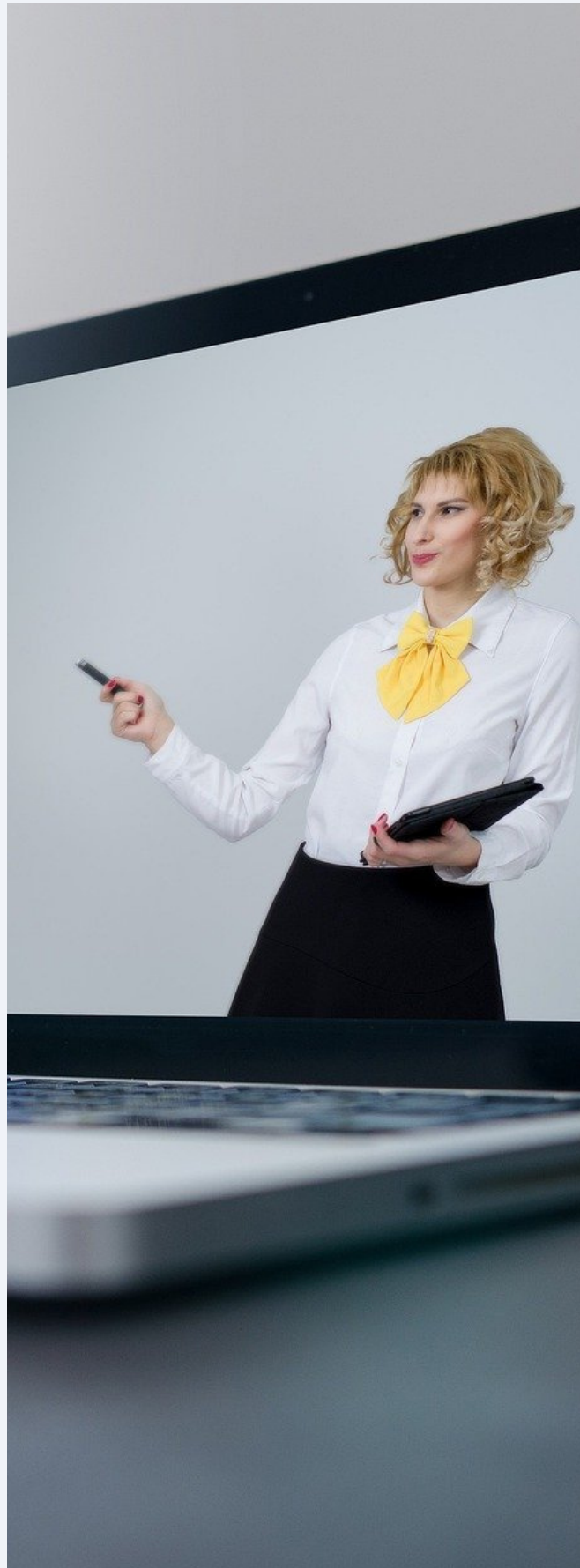
- DispexCD is fully legally compliant and supports NICE best practice
- Multiple layers of security & encryption
- Daily backups to protect your patient data
- Reduces errors
- Saves time & money
- User-friendly
- One free account per member (offer commencing Oct 2021 & only from your renewal date thereafter)

FREE to attend
Thursday, 24.2.22
11:30 am - 12:30 PM

Click a Date to Register
24th Feb

100 places available

 **DISPEXCD**



Changing scripts is different from Endorsing scripts

Endorsements are made in the left-hand column of the script. Changes are made in the body of the script and as long as you follow the rules for changing a script you will be paid by NHSBSA for the changed script.

1. Q. Can the dispensers change a script?

A. Yes, but the change must be in the main body of the script and must be initialled by the doctor.

2. Q. What changes can be made to the script?

A. You can change the strength, formulation, quantity as well as adding the Brand/Branded Generic/Generic manufacturer, as long as the changes are written in the main body of the script and initialled by the doctor.

3. Q. Why should I change the script?

A. Besides the obvious reasons for changes of strength, quantity and formulation, you might need to change the product name or add in a generic manufacturer if a product is unobtainable or a product cannot be obtained at or below the drug tariff price or concession price. In the example below, if you cannot obtain Product A at the tariff price or less, then by adding Accord and initialling the change, you will be reimbursed the Accord dm+d price which is £2.88, as opposed to leaving it and being reimbursed the tariff price of £1.08. Even if you obtain the Accord generic from your supplier at less than £2.88, you will still be reimbursed the dm+d price.

4. Q. Do I need to endorse any changes to the product name in the left-hand column?

A. The only time you would need to add a price in the Endorsement column (besides Specials) is when the product is not listed in the dm+d Browser OR is listed, but has no price in the dm+d Browser.

5. Q. Can you give an example of this?

A. Sertraline 100mg – Drug tariff price June 2019 = £1.08 My supplier sends me Sertraline Aurubindo and charges me £1.19 Sertraline Aurubindo in the dm+d Browser has no price. Add Aurubindo in the main body of the script and endorse £1.19 in the endorsement column. If you do not endorse the price, the script will be returned asking for the price you paid as there is no price in the dm+d Browser.

6. Q. What if the dm+d price is less than the reimbursement price?

A. If I got sent Sertraline Wockhardt with a dm+d price of 85 pence, then I would not change the body of the script, as I would then be reimbursed 85p and not £1.08. It is also gaming if you purposefully order TEVA and change the script to Sertraline TEVA as you will get reimbursed £28.00 for Sertraline TEVA. Do not game the system. If by chance your supplier supplies you with TEVA, then you can change the script to Sertraline TEVA and get the change initialled and be reimbursed TEVA.

Prices are for the example

7 Q. Do you have a crib sheet for this?

A. Use this: Purchase price greater than Drug Tariff price: **CHANGE** script if:

- Generic manufacturer's price in dm+d is greater than Drug Tariff price
- Generic manufacturer's price is not in dm+d and you have paid more than drug tariff price – endorse price in left hand column or script will be returned

DO NOT change script if:

- Generic manufacturer's dm+d price is less than Drug tariff price
- You obtain the generic for less than the drug tariff (gaming is illegal)

QUICK LINKS TO USEFUL INFORMATION

MacBook Air

MEDICATION INFORMATION

- Electronic Drug Tariff
- NHSBSA DM+D Browser
- NHSBSA DM+D Beta (Better than DM+D Browser above)
- Openprescribing DM+D
- Drug Tariff Updates – Concession Prices
- BNF Online
- Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS)– including Drug shortages (Registration required)
- MIMS (Subscription Required)
- NHSBSA Serious Shortages Protocols (SSPs)
- Drug Tariff Category M prices
- Patient Information Leaflets – for printing

CONTROLLED DRUGS

- Misuse of Drugs (Safe Custody) Regulations 1973 – for STRUCTURAL REQUIREMENTS IN RELATION TO SAFES, CABINETS AND ROOMS USED FOR KEEPING DRUGS
- CD Requisition Form – England
- CD Requisition Form – Wales
- The Controlled Drugs (Supervision of Management and Use) Regulations 2013
- Controlled drugs: safe use and management – NICE guideline 46
- The Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001
- Misuse of Drugs Act 1971
- Controlled Drug (CD) Reporting
- Private Controlled Drugs

DISPENSING REGULATIONS

- The National Health Service (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013
- Serious Difficulty Application Form – for patients to apply to NHS England to have their prescriptions dispensed by their GP due to serious difficulty in obtaining them from a pharmacy
- GP Contracts, QoF, DES and PCNs etc

PRESCRIBING AND DISPENSING DATA

- NHSBSA Dispensing Contractor Data
- English Prescribing Dataset (EPD)
- ePACT2

Miscellaneous

- HMRC VAT – Health professionals and pharmaceutical products (VAT Notice 701/57)
- PCSE Online

DISPEX

**Members need to login
to access the links**

dispex.net/informatics/quick-links-to-useful-information/



Calendar of national campaigns

Handy links for upcoming national campaigns and awareness days to help you plan activities.



January

Dry January

Challenging you to go alcohol free for 31 days and aims to raise awareness of the effects of alcohol. Alcohol Change-click [here](#)

alcoholchange

Alcohol training for practitioners: we work with practitioners and services who provide support and treatment to people with alcohol problems, and those who commission them- Click [here](#)

drinkaware

Resources for GPs and frontline healthcare practitioners.

Practical guidance and tools to help you promote alcohol awareness with your patients and within your practice, pharmacy or organisation-[Click here](#)

Better Health Adult Obesity campaign

Jan-March 2022

PHE Resources- Click [here](#)

World Religion Day

16 January 2022

To promote inter-faith understanding and harmony. The Civil Service faith and belief toolkit- Click [here](#)
NHS Digital-Click [here](#)

Cervical Screening Awareness Week

21-28 January 2022- Click [here](#)



February

LGBT History Month

To promote equality and diversity for the benefit of the public. LGBT History- click [here](#)
NHS England- click [here](#)

Time To Talk Day

4 February 2022

Time to change- click [here](#) , PHE Resources- Click [here](#)
NHS England- Click [here](#)

World Cancer Day

4 February 2022

World Cancer Day-click [here](#)
NHS Employers- Click [here](#)

Eating Disorder Awareness Week

6-12 February 2022

An international awareness event, fighting the myths and misunderstandings that surround eating disorders. Beat Eating Disorders -click [here](#)

National Apprenticeship Week

7-13 February 2022

Annual week-long celebration of apprenticeships to shine a light on the amazing work being done by employers and apprentices across the country- click [here](#)

Paragon Skills Apprenticeships & Dispex- click [here](#)

Looking after you too- By NHS England

#LookingAfterYouToo: Coaching support for primary care staff

We recognise that our frontline primary care colleagues involved in the delivery of primary care services, both clinical and non-clinical, are facing unprecedented challenges through Covid-19. We are keen to ensure all staff delivering frontline primary care services feel supported to maintain their psychological wellbeing during this time, enabling them to maintain the delivery of frontline primary care.

Individual coaching support is available with a highly skilled and experienced coach. This will be a space for you to offload the demands of whatever you are experiencing and be supported in developing practical strategies for dealing with this.

It might be that through a one-off conversation you have all the strategies you need to cope with your situation and stay well. Or you might find a few sessions helpful. It is all led by you.

Click [here](#) for the source article.

COVID-19: your wellbeing-By BMA

This guidance aims to help doctors and medical students working under extraordinary and challenging circumstances to look after their own health and wellbeing

As you strive to deliver the best possible care for your patients, it is crucial that you look after your own mental and physical wellbeing. You may find strategies that worked for you previously provide the best approach for you. Whatever your circumstances, we have identified some information and ideas that can support you to cope and be your best personal and professional self. Use the links (left on desktop, above on mobile) to navigate to a topic.

Your wellbeing

We have a range of services to support you.

- Counselling
- Peer support
- UK wellbeing support directory

Click [here](#) for the full support source article

Call our free and confidential helpline on 0330 123 1245



2022 NHSBSA WEBINARS NEW DATES



8th FEBRUARY -Endorsing including Referred Backs

FREE- 1PM START

Help and guidance on the most common endorsing problems. To ensure you receive correct reimbursement for the products you dispense and the correct remuneration for the services you provide. To share information on how the NHS Prescriptive Services process your prescriptions How you can help to reduce or eliminate the need to refer prescriptions back to you.

Click [here](#) to book

10th MARCH-Batch Submission & Switching

FREE - 1PM START

This Webinar will offer clear guidance through the end of month submission processes including how to correctly prepare, sort and submit the monthly prescription bundle. It will also cover why prescriptions are switched between exempt and chargeable and how this affects your payments, as well as top tips on how to make sure switching isn't a problem in your dispensary.

Click [here](#) to book



TIME TO GIVE YOUR FAMILY FINANCES AN MOT

Money may be the last thing on your mind right now, but with NIC due to rise in April, and tax allowances frozen for the next few years, we all owe it to ourselves to give our family finances an overhaul at least once a year.

Once you have your pension position sorted, the other basic building blocks for tax-efficient personal finances are family savings and long-term plans.

From age 18, UK residents can invest up to £20,000 each in an ISA, and parents can fund a junior ISA or child trust fund with up to £9,000 per child – (that's £58,000 for a family of four). If you have an adult planning to buy a home, consider gifting funds to them so that they can invest in a Lifetime ISA (LISA). Savers can invest up to £4,000 a year, to which the government will add a 25% tax-free bonus (max. £1,000 a year) towards a first home or as a pension as part of their overall £20,000 ISA investment limit. Income and capital gains from ISAs are tax-free, and withdrawals from adult ISAs do not affect tax relief.

Of course, when it comes to buying a home, children will often need more help. There are a variety of ways to help fund a house purchase, but it is usually most tax-effective for the child to buy the home in their own name to save on SDLT. Whether you simply gift or lend money to them, or go for a 'joint borrower sole proprietor' mortgage, or just provide a deposit as security will depend on the circumstances, but there are now many options available if you plan ahead.

If you have investments outside ISAs, it's probably a good time to review them. Remember that everyone can realise capital gains up to the annual exemption tax-free – £12,300 in 2021/22, but the allowance is lost

if not used. Married couples and civil partners can transfer assets between them on a no gain/no loss basis, and such transfers should be considered to ensure that the annual exemption can be fully used and any CGT paid at the lowest rate, but it is important to ensure that any such transfer is outright and unconditional.

For more experienced investors, it might be worth taking a look at Venture Capital trust (VCT) investments or smaller companies whose shares qualify for the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS). As these investments carry a higher level of risk, there are significant tax reliefs available to investors. For example, investments in qualifying EIS companies attract income tax relief at 30% on a maximum annual investment of up to £1 million for qualifying individuals: VCTs also qualify for 30% tax relief on investments up to £200,000 a year. They have further tax advantages, but there are minimum period of ownership rules and, as always, it is important to get investment advice from an independent financial adviser.

Finally, it's never a bad time to take another look at your Will to ensure it is up to date. If it doesn't reflect your current family circumstances and future plans, adjusting it now can ensure it stays tax-efficient for the future.

Read BDO's guide to personal tax planning at bit.ly/3GALfwg or get in touch with our team.



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IDEAS | PEOPLE | TRUST



CQC to postpone inspections of acute hospitals and general practice until New Year to support acceleration of booster programme- Source: CQC

The acceleration of the vaccine booster programme, announced yesterday in response to alarming new data about the spread of the Omicron variant, will require a massive effort from the NHS which is already under severe pressure. In recognition of this we are postponing on-site inspection activity in acute hospitals, ambulance services and general practice for the next three weeks with immediate effect – except in cases where we have evidence of risk to life, or the immediate risk of serious harm to people. We will continue risk-based inspection activity in other sectors, including adult social care, mental health, independent health and dentists. We will also be offering additional support to acute hospitals and GPs in order to provide advice on the risks they are facing and to escalate these if necessary.

This decision has been taken in response to the extremely fast-moving situation, with the aim of being as supportive as possible to the increased pressure on the NHS. It updates [previous communications on our inspection approach](#) – however, our priority, as ever, remains to keep people safe.

Click [here](#) for the source.

MIMS introduces leaf symbol to support sustainable inhaler prescribing -Source: MIMS 8/12/21

A leaf symbol now appears in the print issue of MIMS to highlight inhalers with a lower carbon footprint. From December, the listings for dry powder and soft-mist inhalers in the quarterly print edition of MIMS are being flagged with a leaf symbol to indicate that these devices are associated with significantly lower carbon emissions than pressurised metered-dose inhalers (MDIs).

Please click [here](#) for the source article.

NHS tackles potential over-prescription of short course steroid -Source: NHSBSA

NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) and partners have developed a new metric to help identify patients that are being prescribed quantities of prednisolone which might constitute a health risk. Prednisolone is a short course steroid, which can be crucial in treating respiratory illnesses. However recent studies have shown that prescribing too many short course steroids could cause some adverse health conditions. This includes diabetes, cardiovascular illnesses, mental health disorders, musculoskeletal conditions such as osteoporosis and fractures, and many others.

In 2020 alone more than 35,500 people were prescribed over three grams of prednisolone, considered a high dose. Altogether over a million people in England took the drug.

NHSBSA is collaborating with Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust and the Oxford Academic Health Science Network (Oxford AHSN) which is leading the national Accelerated Access Collaborative / AHSN Network severe asthma and asthma biologics programme.

Darren Curry, Chief Digital and Data Officer at NHS Business Services Authority said: "I'm proud to say that at NHSBSA a lot of the work we do is around patient safety and to provide the data and access to data which helps to improve patients' lives. We've worked with Oxford AHSN and Guys and Thomas Hospital for the past eight months, collaborating and sharing to bring all of our skills together to help make a difference."

Seema Gadhia, Pharmacy Lead at Oxford AHSN said: "Being able to identify people on high cumulative doses of oral corticosteroids, and offer alternative treatment management, has the potential to significantly improve outcomes and reduce the risk of steroid related side effects."

Grainne d'Ancona, consultant pharmacist and clinical champion for the programme said: "For the moment, oral corticosteroids still have a role in managing airways disease. However, they must not be mistaken for an innocuous and inevitable consequence of having asthma or COPD. Our awareness of the problems associated with them and the availability of effective alternative strategies to achieve disease control, including optimised adherence to preventer inhalers and newer biologic therapies for appropriate patients, mean we can and should reduce patient's need for them. Facilitating early identification of those most in need of a review is a crucial step on this path."

The new metric looks at patients in England who have been prescribed prednisolone tablets, as well as an asthma/COPD medication in the last 12 months. It calculates the total cumulative dose, in milligrams, for the whole period. This will help clinicians to identify everyone at risk, and to prioritise those most at risk for review. At-risk patients may be suited to alternative therapies or clinical strategies. This method also minimises the chance of including patients who are taking prednisolone for non-respiratory conditions, which can include Crohn's disease and rheumatoid arthritis. Click [here](#) for the source

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PATENT EXPIRY UPDATE

The Dispex [Informatics page](#) with Patent Expiry dates has been updated with products which are due to come off patent in 2022.

Dispex Members can see the latest Patent Expiry dates so that you can plan for when products come off patents.

Not all products are offered as generics soon after their expiry date. Products coming off patent will often lose their discount. Expiry dates may be extended by the drug companies.



This information is available to Dispex members only, you will need to login to view the list. Don't forget members will need to register for a NEW login!!

Positive Parallel Imports (PIs)

With many manufacturers reducing their Reduced Wholesaler Discount and many more reducing or ceasing their Manufacturers Discount Schemes (MDS) we have had a deep dive into the profitability and pitfalls of Parallel Imports (PIs).

We provide a list of Positive PIs, which are more cost effective than UK brands. There are many Negative PIs, which will decrease profitability if you use them instead of UK brands.

Our Spot Order Pad* automatically recognises the Negative PIs and prevents you from ordering them from our preferred provider. If you are signed up to order PIs from your main wholesalers, this will not prevent your main wholesalers from providing you with a Negative PI.

If ordering via the SPOT Order Pad, all Brands which are less beneficial to order as PIs will automatically default to your main wholesaler. Members click [here](#) to login.












The easiest way to use the information is to search for your drug by pressing Ctrl + F on your keyboard

Last updated 3 December 21

Product	pack	NIC	PI vs UK savings
ABASAGLAR 100IU/ML KWIKPEN (PI) FRIDGE	5x3ml	£35.28	£0.18
ABBOTT THIN LANCETS 28G/36MM (PI)	200	£7.88	£0.28

*Contact enquiries@spotdispensing.com to sign up to use the SPOT Order Pad – no sign up fee

Brand Comparisons

GnRH Analogues 	CVS – NOACs 	CVS – Diltiazem 
Women's Health – Levonorgestrel Devices 	Women's Health – Estradiol oral – not valerate 	Women's Health – Desogestrel 
Diabetes – Gliflozins 	Diabetes – Gliptins 	Diabetes – Glucagon-like Peptide-1 receptor Agonists (GLP1) 

In this section, we compare brands in the same classes of drug, assuming the same clinical efficacy. The comparisons show the NHS cost and the difference in profitability taking into account wholesalers discount (reduced and full) and manufacturers' discount schemes (MDS). Discounts are offered and some disappear, often without notice. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information supplied.

Each month we will be adding to the library of Comparisons and updating information as and when changes to discounts or prices occur. Members can click [here](#) to login.

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DISPEX ANSWERS



**The experts at Dispex provide answers to the most common questions, quoting the relevant Regulations:
We will be adding more questions and answers as time goes on.**

Question:

We have Peristeen Plus prescribed for a patient and I assumed we should charge for the prescription! However, the patient insists that their previous practice never charged them- please could you advise us?

Dispex members can visit our [Informatics page](#) to find out the answer and view any relevant Regulations!

For a refresher on PAs & VAT check out our interactive Dispex Education course [here](#)

A Personal Letter from Nigel Morley

All Good Things Must Come to An End

As I indicated in my last October article I am working towards retirement. Therefore, as from 1st February 2022 I will be relinquishing all formal links with Dispex Limited which I founded in April 2001. I will continue with my Expert Witness work, representation of dispensing practices at NHS Litigation Oral Hearings and as a Senior Mentor for The Royal Pharmaceutical Society. Existing clients will continue to be supported but new clients will be referred to my successors for whom I will continue to work with as a consultant. I will also continue to be available for complimentary advice for any dispensing practice if they so should wish it on office@nvmholdings.com. I am often asked where the Dispex name came from it was basically a contraction of dispensing experts.

It was felt appropriate for me to give a brief summary of my life rather than my normal critique of some aspects of pharmaceutical law.

Let's start at the beginning, I was born in London and went to an elite grammar school Harrow County for Boys. Detention, lines and corporal punishment were the order of the day. There were some very notable ex pupil friends at Harrow County including Sir Paul Nurse FRS Nobel Prize winner who because of my friendship with him was patron of the Dispex conferences for many years. Michael Portillo who shares an interest with me in sartorial jackets. Judge David Reissner the leading Pharmaceutical Law expert in the UK, famous sports men and many leading establishment figures including the British Ambassador to The United Nations. At the 100th anniversary dinner of the founding of the school I sat next to the captain of the submarine that sunk the Belgrano. Upon leaving Harrow Grammar school I went to Bath University and was awarded a commendation by the Board of Studies for coming top of my pharmacy degree year.

On leaving university I joined a pharmaceutical company as I was looking for a career in pharmaceutical marketing. To gain field experience I

was put on the road as a pharmaceutical rep, calling on doctors in the morning and retail pharmacies in the afternoons. It soon became evident to me that in the early 70's community pharmacists were not entrepreneurial. In my youthful exuberance and vanity, I thought I could do better at being a community pharmacist. I therefore changed career track and undertook my Post Graduate year with Weston's Chemists now Lloyds Pharmacy. My first managerial pharmacist position was in Hyde. Little was I to know that Hyde would feature very prominently many years later. Leaving Manchester, I joined a small multiple pharmacy chain called Dudley Taylor Limited as a Superintendent Pharmacist and had a very successful 13 entrepreneurial years with them. It was then time to work for myself and I bought a small pharmacy at 31 Main Street Pembroke, England beyond Wales. I managed to treble the turnover in four years sold up for good money and came back to Northamptonshire. Therefore 31 is my lucky number at roulette.

After six months holiday I was bored so I started doing community pharmacy locums. I then had a career break and had six years working as an on-course bookmaker. One day in 1996 whilst making a book at Leicester racecourse I answered a telephone call and was asked if I would teach dispensing doctor dispensers for a local college. I said I would get back to them at the end of the day's horse racing I accepted the job and that was the start of a 25-year love affair with dispensing doctors. Despite being a pharmacist, I was regularly accepted by the vast majority of dispensing doctors 'as being on their side'. In attempting to assist dispensing doctors with compliance with the Controlled Drug Regulations. I became an authority on Controlled Drugs and wrote a definitive text book. I also designed and formatted new hard copy controlled drug registers and instituted the first patient controlled drugs returns register.

Continues on the next page.....

A Personal Letter from Nigel Morley

All Good Things Must Come to An End

I first met Doctor Harold Shipman in Manchester when he attended one of my professional lectures entitled 'Drugs Misadventures and Other Misfortunes'. He arrived late and sat in the front row and afterwards introduced himself to me. He seemed very pleasant, slightly manipulative, and I thought I wish you were my G.P. Little was I to know! I later became an Expert Witness as to fact and opinion in the Shipman Judicial Inquiries. I was also an Expert Witness for some of the professional Regulatory Hearings alleging misconduct by a healthcare professional associated with Doctor Shipman. In my professional opinion the full story has not been told. It was noticeable that all the whistle blowers were women which is not surprising if you read the definitive book on human instinct entitled 'Blink'. Sometime I will write my own version of events.

During the course of my 25 years of working with dispensing practices I have travelled all over the UK lecturing at evening meetings and visiting practices during the day. I also trained the vast majority of pharmaceutical companies in marketing to dispensing practices. I also undertook financial modelling for most of the pharmaceutical industry and even supplied some definitive papers to the Department of Health which led to the introduction of Category M. For obvious reasons this is not something which I have divulged before.

During my time with Sureline Pharmaceutical Services and Dispex Limited I have enjoyed the assistance of many loyal and talented staff. It would be invidious to mention names but you all know who you are. I made very good friends with many pharmaceutical reps and their senior management and of course a multitude of dispensing staff including dispensers, practice managers and of course G. P's. I will particularly mention Doctor Faye Ayache of Suffolk who sadly was one of the healthcare professionals to die of Covid 19.

As regards my non-professional life I have met many interesting people including politicians. Particular occasions that come to mind was a lunch with Margaret Thatcher on the date the troops landed at

San Carlos beach during the Falkland's Conflict. Meeting the Queen and other members of the Royal family in the Royal Enclosure at Ascot and a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. The most interesting was Enoch Powell a grossly misunderstood intellectual. The most boring was Edward Heath and I found Michael Portillo and Liam Fox wonderful company and raconteurs.

I've had a life time interest in bridge and played for my school, university and Somerset. The most glamorous person I played bridge with was Omar Sharif, the actor who as you would expect was a perfect gentleman unlike many international bridge players I have played with and against.

One interesting hobby which paid for itself was greyhound racing. I was to enjoy 145 winners as an owner winning some prestigious televised events. I was horrified one day when I picked one of my dogs to win for a dispensing doctor and later found out he had wagered £1000 on my greyhound. Luckily it won by 30 lengths. People often ask me if greyhound racing is straight, I couldn't possibly comment.

I am a very keen freemason and I enjoy lecturing and writing on masonic history. I was privileged to give the 200th anniversary address and lecture for my Lodge at the presentation of our 200-year warrant in November 2019. We were fortunate to miss the covid pandemic.

Finally last but not least I have been blessed with five children currently aged from 47 to 5. I will particularly mention my eldest daughter Sarah who has typed up all the Dispex Gazette articles, my masonic histories and recent Expert Witness cases.

I am often asked have I made any mistakes, of course I have. Would I change anything... **no I wouldn't.**

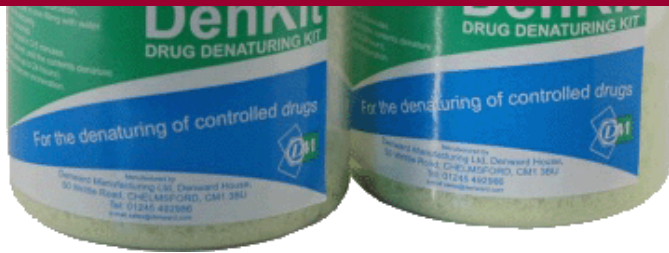




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Dispenser

" There was a lot of information offered and it was explained very clearly. It was easy to follow and had a good delivery"

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