

We have read through the Department of Health & Social Care's Guidance on the Hormone Replacement Therapy prescription prepayment certificate, and have highlighted the key points to be aware of. As well as providing our members with a downloadable patient HRT poster for display in the dispensary. For the DHSC's guidance in full please click [here](#).

## Changes

- Regulations have been amended to mandate single item prescribing for the HRT medicines listed in the Drug Tariff and a discretion for dispensing contractors to refuse to dispense where mixed prescriptions, i.e. those containing eligible HRT and other medicines, are issued.
- This is important in ensuring, where possible, correct patient charging at the point of dispensing and pharmacy reimbursement and recovery of charges processes following the dispensing of the HRT item against the HRT PPC.
- The main changes to the FP10 are as follows:

(a) A new exemption box W for patients who hold a valid HRT PPC

(b) Revised patient information page directing patients where to find information on reporting suspected side effects to medicines and medical device incidents to the MHRA Yellow Card scheme: [mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard](http://mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard)

(A specimen of the back of the new paper FP10):

- The front of the prescription form has not changed. Minor changes have also been made to the patient information sheet.
- The updated suite of FP10s, and corresponding hospital outpatient prescription forms, will be put into circulation as soon as possible. There will be a period of transition where old stock is used up, prior to use of new stock; **old stock should continue to be used until stocks of it run out**. The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA), which processes prescription forms for both the purposes of reimbursing pharmacies and carrying out exemption checking, will handle both old and new prescription forms during the transition. The new paper FP10 will be in circulation from the beginning of April 2023.

## scope

- The HRT PPC cannot be used to provide exemption from charges for any item **not included** on the HRT medicines list, even if the medicine is often used to treat the symptoms of menopause e.g. anti-depressants. HRT that is not licenced for use in the UK is also not in the scope of the HRT PPC e.g. testosterone.
- The HRT medicines list will be published in the Drug Tariff in Part XVI <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/drug-tariff>

## Prescribers- Issuing Prescriptions

- The HRT PPC will negate the need for prescribers to issue longer prescriptions where the aim of this had previously been to reduce the costs of the HRT for the patient.
- To enable the introduction of the HRT PPC, regulations have been amended to mandate that HRT medicines included on the HRT medicines list published in the Drug Tariff in Part XVI and must be provided on a separate NHS prescription from other prescription items from 1 April.
- A digital solution will be introduced as soon as possible to automate the issuing of listed HRT items as single-item prescriptions at the point of prescribing.
- In the meantime, prescribers will be required from 1 April to manually issue (e.g. via EPS) prescriptions for all listed HRT items as single-item prescriptions (i.e. separate from all other prescription items, including other listed HRT items). This is because

NHSBSA and dispensing systems are not designed to handle mixed charge prescriptions; a patient either pays for all items on the prescription or they are exempt from charging.

## Workaround

Where the new exemption category W HRT only prescription prepayment certificate is NOT available and the patient holds a valid HRT PPC, the workaround, selecting box F prescription prepayment certificate MUST only be used for prescriptions containing ONLY items from the HRT medicines list.

## Mixed Prescriptions

- Regulations have been amended so that dispensing contractors will be able to, but not be required to, refuse to supply items on a mixed prescription where a charge exemption is being claimed based on the HRT PPC.
- If a prescriber issues a mixed prescription in error (i.e. one that includes both listed HRT medicines and other medicines), they will need to issue to the patient new single-item prescriptions for any listed HRT items, alongside a separate prescription for the other items.
- If a patient takes a mixed prescription to a dispenser, they will likely need to return to the prescriber to issue separate prescriptions for listed HRT items, having been unable to fill their prescription at the pharmacy.

## For a mixed charge prescription where the patient holds a valid HRT PPC the options are:

- 1 - No items dispensed return prescription to prescriber for items to be separated.
- 2 - Urgent items dispensed patient and pharmacist agree which items (all HRT or all non HRT) are dispensed. Patient is referred back to the prescriber to obtain a separate prescription for the item(s) not dispensed.
- 3 - All items urgent and dispensed patient pays for all items and gets a FP57 Receipt and Refund form.

## Changes to dispensing systems

- Dispensing system suppliers are updating dispensing systems to include the new HRT PPC exemption category. The HRT PPC exemption has been assigned box W and Electronic Reimbursement Message (EREM) code 0020.

- Where dispensing systems have not been updated a temporary workaround will be in place whereby letter F, EREM code 0007 prescription prepayment certificate should be selected.

## Current FP10 prescription form:

### The patient:

- should be instructed to select box F prescription prepayment certificate on the current FP10
- should provide evidence that they hold a valid HRT PPC

### The dispenser:

- should check evidence of a valid HRT PPC
- should confirm the items for which the HRT PPC is being used are on the HRT medicines list
- Place paper prescriptions in the exempt bundle



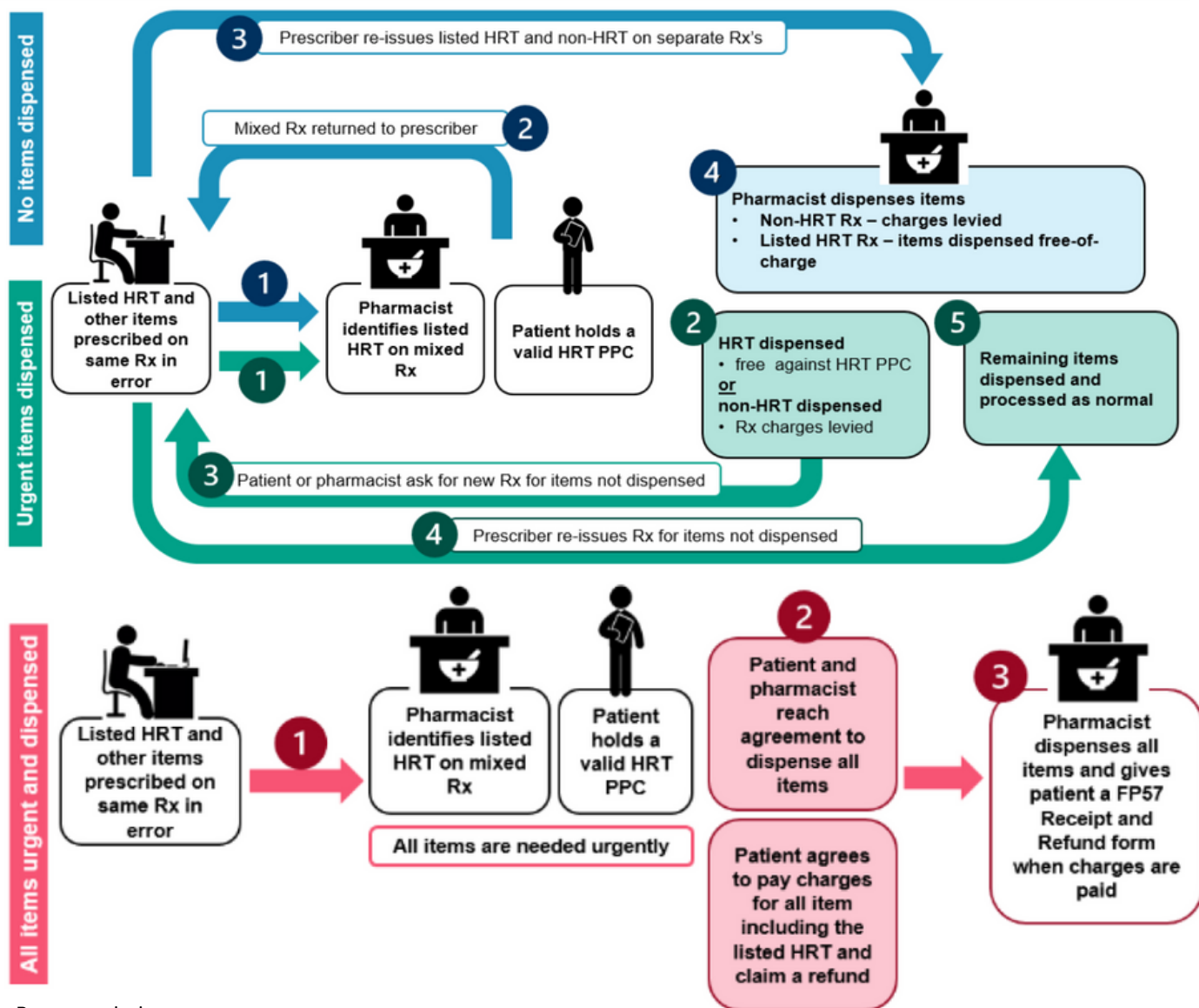
# HRT On PPC

## Downloadable Dispensary Patient Poster

Continues on the next page

Diagram illustrating the options available for handling a mixed prescription.

**Mixed prescriptions (non-HRT and listed HRT prescription items) when patient holds a valid HRT PPC**



Rx = prescription

HRT items= those listed in the Drug Tariff part XVI - notes on changes, para 10 as being in the scope of the HRT PPC

For the DHSC's full guidance please click [here](#).



We have put together a list of useful quick links, which include such topic as:

- MEDICATION INFORMATION
- PRESCRIBING AND DISPENSING DATA
- DISPENSING REGULATIONS
- CONTROLLED DRUGS
- POSTERS
- DISPEX ANSWERS