



The latest Dispensing Fee Scale published on 2nd October has come as a viscous blow to dispensaries as they struggle to ensure their viability. It seems as if dispensaries are being attacked from all sides. We have the punitive Generics Costing more than Tariff and the supply issues causing huge workload burdens and increased stress to both patients and dispensers. On top of that many discounts are reducing or disappearing all together.

Trying to understand the yo-yoing of the dispensing fees is not easy. There is apparently a set pool of money which goes towards dispensing fees for All doctors – this includes dispensing fees for flu jabs administered by our non-dispensing colleagues. This set amount does indeed get an annual inflationary uplift, with this year's uplift being 4.5%. I am not sure whose inflationary figures this was based upon, but with other inflationary measures recognising significantly higher figures, this represents a net decrease in income. On top of that, using a complex set of statistics, this year's dispensing fee is based upon number of dispensed items averaged out of several years. If the number of items together with the dispensing fee related to those items is in excess of the fixed sum made available for that period of time, an adjustment takes place to recoup the overspend. Not surprisingly, during the beginnings of Covid there was an increase in dispensed items. On top of that we have seen an increase in flu jabs given as the 50–64-year-olds were eligible. This will have skewed the dispensing item figure for that period of time and dispensing practices are now suffering the consequences of something totally out of their control.

The DDA have long been advocating for a fairer system to try to avoid the huge swings in dispensing fees. The GPC negotiates on behalf of all GPs and have not yet been able to persuade NHSE and the DHSC to consider less volatile options for funding dispensing services.

We have seen Boots and Lloyds closing pharmacies and many other pharmacies are reporting big drops in their operating profits. We all know that dispensing subsidises the rest of the practice and should practices not be able to ensure the viability of their dispensaries this is sure to have a direct impact on the services provided by those practices and many of them will indeed be considering handing their contracts back. It has been shown that when practices hand their contracts back, it costs the NHS a significant amount more to provide those services.

Whilst many dispensing practices will be struggling, Dispex has many tools available via our website and training to assist you in reducing your losses. Why not check out our **Brand Comparisons, Generics Costing More Than Tariff, Positive PIs** as well as our cost saving **Informatics** section

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## Further Online Resources

Dispex publishes updates on our website to assist you and to keep up to date with the ever-changing world of Dispensing.

**DRUG TARIFF:** We provide easy access information each month looking at the Drug Tariff including Advance notice of changes as well as Changes for that month.

### Drug Tariff Update October 2023

Published: 05 Oct 2023

#### 4.2.1 DELETIONS FROM PART VIIIA EFFECTIVE FROM 1 NOVEMBER 2023

Benzydamine 3%  
cream      35g      Category  
C Difflam

100g      Category  
C Difflam

Coal tar extract  
5% shampoo      250ml      Category  
C Alposyl  
2 in 1

Fluconazole  
200mg/100ml  
solution for  
infusion vials      1      Category  
C Advanz  
Pharma

**SUPPLIES:** We keep you up to date with weekly Supply Updates based on Supply status and in alphabetical order, using information from SPS.

### Supply Update 29th September 2023

Published: 29 Sep 2023

Medicine	Status	Anticipated re-supply date	Last updated
Alteplase (Actilyse) 10mg, 20mg and 50mg powder and solvent for solution for injection and infusion vials	Supply returning	-	Apr 6, 2023
Bleomycin 15,000unit powder for solution for injection vials	Supply returning	-	Aug 16, 2023
Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml and 250mg/5ml oral suspension	Supply returning	Sep 29, 2023	Jul 24, 2023

**Category M:** Updates are published as and when they occur which should normally be every quarter. We analyse these and give you a heads up on which items to watch out for.

## Category M Quarter 3 October 2023

Published: 22 Sep 2023

The latest category M shows yet another slashing of prices and will inflict further pain on dispensing practices. There are now 661 product lines in Category M.

Note the price of Apixaban has dropped significantly – by £27 to £33 depending upon strength. Sitagliptin 50mg has dropped by close to £3 per pack. . We expect pressure from ICBs to change patients to these cheaper generics.

There are 473 products whose price has DECREASED 161 products whose prices have Increased . No wonder there are so many Concession price changes each month.

New Category M products to look out for – ensure that you check your generic acquisition costs.

Product	Size	Oct-23
Betamethasone valerate 0.1% cream	30	1.71
Betamethasone valerate 0.1% cream	100	3.54

**Concession:** Our Concession Price updates are published in an easy-to-use alphabetical list.

## Concession Price Update September 2023– Final Update

Published: 02 Oct 2023

The DHSC has updated the Concession prices for September (29.9.23). No additional endorsements are required for price concessions. A price concession only applies for the month in which it is granted.

Below is the full list of all Concessions granted in alphabetical order.

Drug	Pack size	Price concession
Acamprosate 333mg gastro-resistant tablets	168	£23.67
Aciclovir 800mg tablets	35	£3.81
Amiloride 5mg tablets	28	£14.24
Amisulpride 100mg tablets	60	£18.11
Amisulpride 200mg tablets	60	£32.15
Atomoxetine 10ma capsules	28	£44.45

**DISCOUNTS:** And last but not least, we keep you informed of Discounts Updates that we are able to verify, looking at products whose discount has ceased or changed or products for which a new or enhanced discount scheme has been offered.

## Discount Updates October 2023

Published: 04 Oct 2023

**Dexcom** are offering a significant discount on their Glucose Interstitial Fluid device and sensors. This could potentially negate the huge losses incurred in using Freestyle Libre 2. Any changes need to be made face to face and take into account the patient's clinical needs. This discount is offered via Alliance

**BMS** – consider prescribing Eliquis by brand as the price of apixaban has dropped significantly and the profit