

Gazette

YOUR MONTHLY DISPENSARY GAZETTE

News and Updates on Dispensing Doctor Issues

2024/2025 DES SPECIFICATION CONTRACT



PCN Leadership and Management Training Funding

As Spring gradually reveals itself, you may have already noticed an increase in the number of patients seeking medical assistance for hay fever at your practice. While patients are advised to manage symptoms themselves, some find over-the-counter medications inaccessible or ineffective, prompting them to rely on prescriptions from their GP. In response to this, we have recently updated our hay fever formulary for the 2024 season, please see pages 4-5 for further details.

In the continuous pursuit of improving practice efficiency, prioritising areas for leadership or management development is crucial. In line with this, it's worth noting that the 2024-2025 PCN DES contract specification once again includes provisions for leadership and management training funding. However, this component has been integrated into the core PCN Funding. For further information and to obtain your copy of our template letter, please see page 6. Practices can utilise our template letter to formalise your training request to your PCN's Clinical Director.

The Dispensary Gazette

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DDA Conference Programme Published

The DDA Annual Conference programme has been published and it looks like another year of information, updates and quality speakers. The delegate booking site is now open and delegates are urged to book soon as there are a limited number of places available. When the sponsored talks speakers and presentation titles are confirmed, these will be added to the programme, which is available on the booking **website**.

The Dispex team is thrilled to showcase our profitability tools and provide you with a firsthand experience of our digital CD platform, **DispexCD**. Visit our stand at the conference to explore our dispensary supplies and seize the opportunity to ask the team your questions in person! **Don't miss our Director, Dr Ankit Kant, speaking on Wednesday, the 28th!**

Best Wishes,

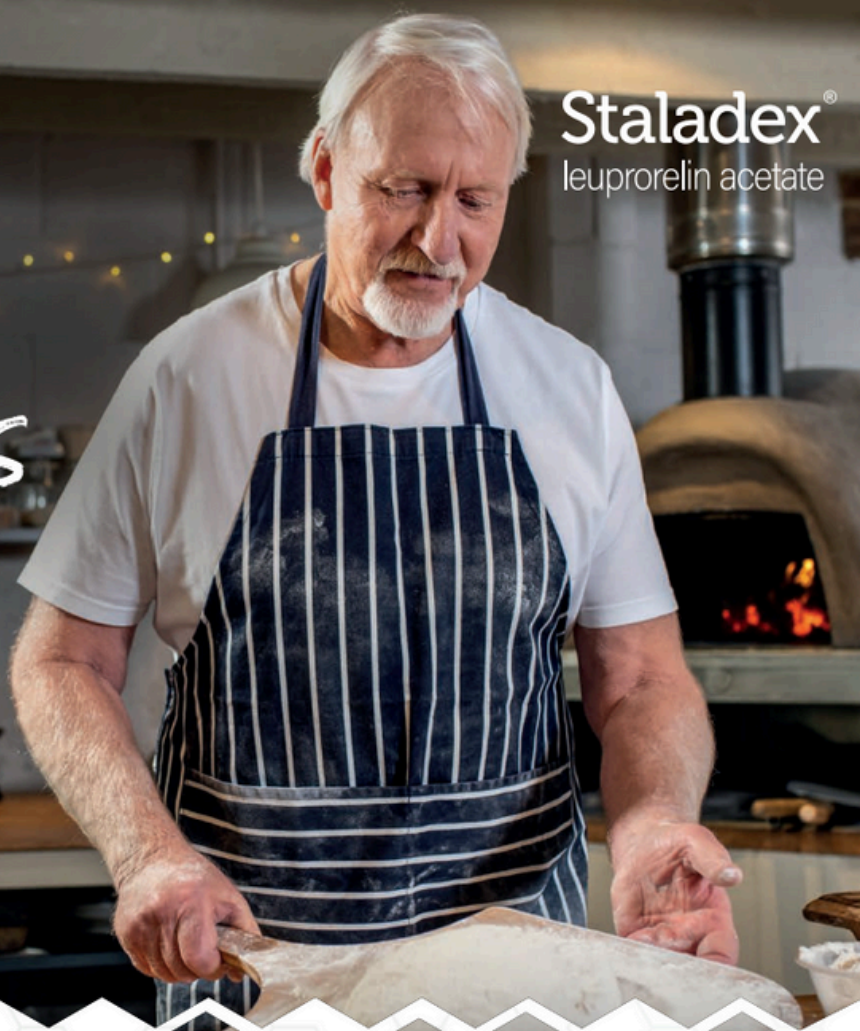
Claudy Rodhouse

Dispex Design and Editorial Contributor

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Always consult the SmPC before prescribing.

[Click here for prescribing information](#)

Adverse events should be reported. Reporting forms and information can be found at www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard. Adverse events should also be reported to Aspire Pharma Ltd on 01730 231148.

10106062191 v2.0 March 2024

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References: 1. Leuporelin Amdeepcha, Public Assessment Report-2019; Available from: https://mri.cts-mrp.eu/portal/detailsproductnumber=DE%2FH%2F5485%2F001#:~:text=PAR%20%7C%2001_DE5485_1_DC%20Leuporelin%20Amdeepcha_draft%20PAR(Last Accessed February 2024).
2. Staladex SmPC (Last Accessed March 2024)

Concessions – the next frontier for the clawback mechanism

Prior to April 2024, the DHSC clawed back any profit that pharmacy was making over and above the allowed profit. The profit is assessed on the purchase prices paid by randomly selected pharmacies each month. Any over or under performance on profit was adjusted using the Category M prices, which was why each quarter, we saw changes in prices, more often with a net decrease in Category M prices over the whole bundle of Category M products. This in turn led to many items being reimbursed at a lower price than the acquisition costs and subsequently Community Pharmacy England (CPE) lobbied the DHSC to offer concession price increases to cover most of those losses.

The concession prices had a positive effect on dispensing doctors as the reimbursement price increased, but as all reimbursement has clawback (11.18%) taken off, there are still many items dispensed at a loss. Pharmacy benefitted from concession prices by also having all of them zero-discounted.

It looks as if the DHSC has squeezed out as much as they can from Category M and have slipped in CLAUSE

8 BASIC PRICE B. 2. which states: " Ordinarily, under the agreed process, Part VIIIA Category M reimbursement prices for April to June 2024 would contain adjustments for the results of the medicine margin survey (latest results up until the end of September 2023).

This would have meant a downward margin adjustment for April to June 2024 of £16.2million, so some prices in the April to June 2024 Drug Tariff would have been lower than they are. Instead of making that downward adjustment to Category M, a downwards adjustment will be made to concessionary prices during April to June 2024. **The Department will accept concessionary price requests from Community Pharmacy England as normal but will change its approach so that the concessionary prices granted may be lower than they would have been."**

Effectively the Concession prices will be less generous, most probably causing even bigger losses on many drugs. CPE will be monitoring this. Unfortunately Dispensing doctors get caught up in this despite having no input.

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INTRO.

Welcome to the DispexCD platform. This electronic system is proving invaluable for dispensing practices and we have many sites using our DispexCD register.

Simple to set up, straightforward to use and adjustable to fit your existing workflows. DispexCD helps to eliminate calculation errors and misread handwriting, therefore dispensaries using the platform have fewer discrepancies and errors - saving valuable time.

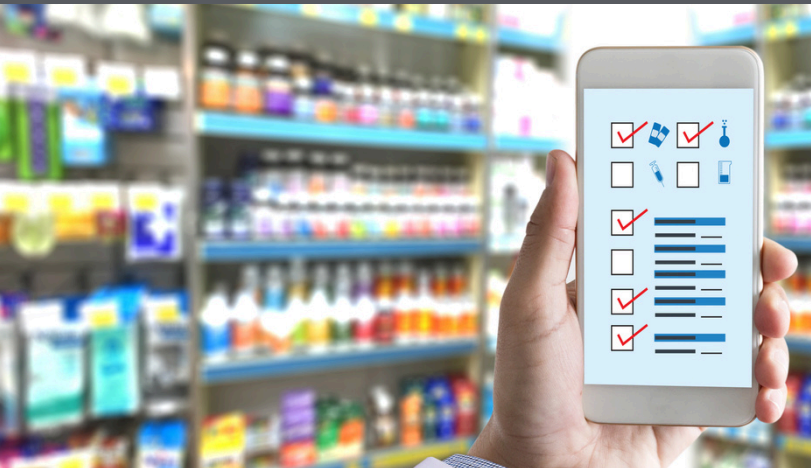
- Safe & secure
- Fully compliant - supports NICE best practice
- Cloud based with daily backups
- User-friendly
- Reduces errors
- One FREE account for Dispex members!

DISPEXCD

DispexCD
Electronic CD Register

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The dosette system has been designed for patients in the community who need help ensuring they take their medicines regularly in order to achieve the best health outcome!

2024 Formulary



Whilst patients are encouraged to self-medicate, many dispensing patients do not have easy access to over-the-counter medications and thus rely on prescriptions from their doctors. In addition, some of the patients who have self-medicated may be looking for more effective medication, which is often only available as a POM (Prescription Only Medication).

Ocular Anti-histamines

There are a number of ocular preparations available, but you may notice that the price of generic Sodium Cromoglycate fluctuates. The generic can only be prescribed in a pack size of 13.5ml. All Sodium Cromoglycate 10ml pack size prescriptions MUST be prescribed by brand, or the script will be returned. Note that Olopatadine is now available as a generic, but first check out the acquisition costs.

Prescribe	Manufacturer		Pack Size	Basic Price
Sodium Cromoglycate 13.5ml Pack Size				
Sodium Cromoglycate generic	Generic	Sodium Cromoglycate	13.5ml	£4.71
Opticrom	Sanofi	Sodium Cromoglycate	13.5ml	£8.03
Sodium Cromoglycate 10ml Pack Size				
Aspire Allergy Relief	Aspire	Sodium Cromoglycate	10ml	£3.35
Murine	Prestige	Sodium Cromoglycate	10ml	£2.91
Numark	Numark	Sodium Cromoglycate	10ml	£2.42
Opticrom	Sanofi	Sodium Cromoglycate	10ml	£3.50
Optrex	Reckitt Benckiser	Sodium Cromoglycate	10ml	£3.88
Olopatadine generic	Novartis	Olopatadine	5ml	£3.26
Opatanol	Novartis	Olopatadine	5ml	£4.68
Relestat	Abbvie	Epinephrine	5ml	£9.90
Optilast	Viartis	Azelastine	8ml	£6.40
Zaditen	Thea	Ketotifen	5ml	£7.80
Alomide	Novartis	Lodoxamide	10ml	£5.21
Otrivin-Antistin	Thea	Xylometazoline + antazoline	10ml	£3.35
Voltarol eye drops	Thea	Diclofenac	5ml	£6.68

The **Brand Comparisons** on the Dispex website show the difference in profitability for all the above products, please click [here](#) to view.

Nasal Steroids

For some products it is best to prescribe generically and for others it may be best to look for Parallel Imports to offset any losses. Note that if Fluticasone is prescribed in a pack size of 120 doses, then you MUST dispense Avamys. The list below gives an overview of prices. Members can check the impact of the discounts on the Brand Comparisons page on the Dispex website, please click [here](#) to view.

Prescribe	Manufacturer	Doses	Basic Price
Steroid nasal sprays			
Beclometasone			
Beclometasone		200	£2.73
Beconase	GSK	200	£2.63
Nasobec	TEVA	200	£1.99
Fluticasone			
Avamys	GSK	120	£6.44
Flixonase	GSK	150	£11.01
Nasofan	TEVA	150	£8.04
Fluticasone		150	£11.01
Mometasone			
Mometasone		140	£2.76
Nasonex	MSD	140	£7.68
Triamcinolone			
Nasacort	Sanofi	120	£7.39
Combinations			
Dymista	Viartis	120	£14.80
Ryaltris	Glenmark	240	£13.32

Systemic Antihistamines

Most prescriptions for non-sedating antihistamines will be for generic cetirizine, loratadine or fexofenadine. Some generic antihistamines will make a loss after clawback. Second or third line use of Ilaxten from A.Menarini may be a good option when other products do not work.

The list below gives an overview of prices. Check your generic prices as profit can still be made. See the Brand Comparisons on the Dispex website for profitability information, please [click](#) here to view.

Prescribe	Manufacturer	Legal category	Doses	Basic Price
Antihistamines				
Non-sedating				
Cetirizine 10mg tabs	Generic	GSL, P, POM*	30	£0.82
Levocetirizine 5mg tabs	Generic	POM	30	£4.37
Loratadine 10mg tabs	Generic	GSL, P, POM*	30	£0.86
Desloratidine 5mg tabs	Generic	POM	30	£3.52
Fexofenadine 120mg tabs	Generic	POM	30	£1.49
Fexofenadine 180mg tabs	Generic	POM	30	£2.07
Ilaxten 20mg tabs (Bilastine)	A.Menarini	POM	30	£6.00

*Depends on pack size

Information supplied by Hexagon6 Ltd

2024/25 DES SPECIFICATION CONTRACT



Leadership and Management Training Funding

The 2024-2025 PCN DES contract specification allows for a Leadership and Management payment, but this is now combined into the core PCN Funding. Please click [here](#) to read the updated DES contract in full.

What does this mean?

It means that practices can utilise the PCN Funding payment to have training through Dispex for Leadership and Management training for your Dispensary! Either as an individual practice or at PCN level.

4 Steps to Free Training from Your PCN via Dispex

1. Identify a leadership & management training requirement.
2. Find a relevant and suitable Dispex course- such as our 7-course leadership & management package (online learner-led) or our dispensary management profitability review (on-site training visit).
3. Edit our **TEMPLATE LETTER** and forward onto your PCN's Clinical Director or Lead. Provide them with your training requirements and our course information, along with our email training@dispex.net. We will require a funding confirmation email & financial information directly from your PCN. We will then invoice your PCN for payment.
4. If approved by your PCN, you will receive your training confirmation directly from Dispex. Please note, Dispex holds no responsibility for NHS England's decision on payments. All PCNs operate differently.

Dispex 7 Courses Package

£363 per member learner or £528 per non-member;

- PAs & VAT
- Induction of New Staff
- Leading and Motivating a Team
- A Comprehensive Guide to Controlled Drugs
- Organising and Delegating
- Performance Management
- Understanding Leadership

Prices are per learner & include all 7 courses. Prices are inclusive of VAT. All courses must be completed within 1 year of your enrolment date. For course descriptions click [here](#).

Dispensary management profitability review

This involves a visit to your site, you will receive a thorough review of your dispensary by our experienced Consultant, to help identify any causes for profit loss and opportunities for increased profitability.

Explanations will be provided on what, when & how to claim, correct procedures and processes, ordering and maintaining stock, CD management, endorsing, concessions, end of month and any other areas of profitability that requires guidance. Direction will be given on how to focus and ensure full value is potentially added to improve the profitability within your own dispensary and then ensure your understanding and confidence in implementing any changes that affects the profitability shortfall of the practice.

A final written Report summarising the outcomes is produced following the visit, highlighting the topics discussed and any issues negatively affecting your Dispensary profits, including suggestions for improvement. **Please note, geographical restrictions apply.** For further details and our prices, please email the Dispex team at training@dispex.net



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 - Bespoke half day in-house training
- Member discount applies - prices start at £50+vat**



TYPE 2 DIABETES

Diabetes: Metformin – Prescribing and Dispensing

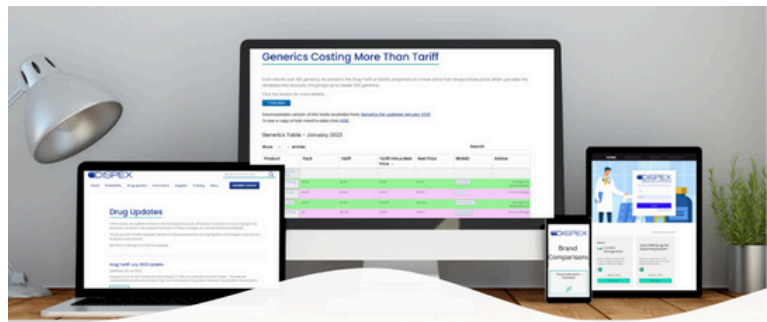
Metformin is often the first line therapeutic choice, after diet and weight loss, for Type 2 Diabetes. Many of your diabetic patients will be on either Immediate Release (IR) or Modified Release (MR) Metformin. Patients who cannot tolerate the IR formulations are sometimes switched to MR formulations which tend to be better tolerated from a gastro-intestinal aspect.

We have noticed that the Category M price for Metformin MR 500mg and 1000mg has been low and it is not always possible to purchase it at or below the Drug Tariff price. Concession prices have assisted a small amount, but still, when you take the Clawback (11.18%) into account, many practices make a loss on generic prescribing of Metformin MR.

Some time ago, the Medicines Management teams asked practices to change all patients to Suktarto, and no doubt they will ask you to change all the Suktarto patients back to Metformin generic as it is cheaper than Suktarto. Aspire are now offering a discount on Suktarto which makes it worthwhile considering a swap to the brand. To see the effect of this on profitability, please check out our **Brand Comparisons** in the members' only section of the website.

Note that as there are no prices in the DM+D against the Metformin generic MR 500mg and 1000mg, 28 pack sizes, these must be prescribed by brand. The 56 pack sizes can be prescribed either by brand or generically.

The Metformin MR 750mg, which is prescribed less often may be worth prescribing generically. It is a Category C drug. This article continues on the next page.



DISPEX Profitability Tools

- Discount Updates
- Drug Tariff Updates
- Concession Price Updates
- Supply Updates
- Informatics
- Positive Parallel Imports
- Brand Comparisons
- Generics Costing More Than Tariff

LOGIN
DISPEX.NET



Prescribe	Manufacturer	Pack Size	Basic Price
Metformin XL			
500mg XL/MR tabs			
Generic	Cat M	56	£1.68
Glucophage	Merck Serono	56	£4.00
Jesacrin	Key	56	£1.75
Meijumet	Medreich	56	£3.00
Metabet	Morningside	56	£5.22
Sukkarto	Aspire	56	£2.48
Yaltormin	Wockhardt	56	£2.39
28s must be prescribed by brand			
Diagemet	Genus	28	£1.49
Glucophage	Merck Serono	28	£1.99
Glucorex	GlucoRx	28	£0.95
Jesacrin	Key	28	£0.90
Meijumet	Medreich	28	£1.50
Metabet	Morningside	28	£2.61
Sukkarto	Aspire	28	£1.24
Yaltormin	Wockhardt	28	£1.20
1000g XL/MR Tabs			
Generic	Cat M	56	£2.55
Glucient	Consilient	56	£8.52
Glucophage	Merck Serono	56	£6.40
Jesacrin	Key	56	£8.52
Meijumet	Medreich	56	£6.40
Metabet	Morningside	56	£9.06
Sukkarto	Aspire	56	£3.97
Yaltormin	Wockhardt	56	£3.83
28s must be prescribed by brand			
Glucient	Consilient	28	£4.26
Glucophage	Merck Serono	28	£3.20
Jesacrin	Key	28	£4.26
Meijumet	Medreich	28	£3.20
Metabet	Morningside	28	£4.53
Sukkarto	Aspire	28	£1.99
Yaltormin	Wockhardt	28	£1.92
750g XL/MR Tabs			
Generic	Cat C	56	£6.40
Glucophage	Merck Serono	56	£6.40
Jesacrin	Key	56	£6.40
Meijumet	Medreich	56	£6.40
Metabet	Morningside	56	£9.06
Sukkarto	Aspire	56	£2.87
Yaltormin	Wockhardt	56	£2.88
28s must be prescribed by brand			
Glucient	Consilient	28	£3.20
Glucophage	Merck Serono	28	£3.20
Jesacrin	Key	28	£3.20
Meijumet	Medreich	28	£3.20
Metabet	Morningside	28	£4.53
Yaltormin	Wockhardt	28	£1.44

UPCOMING WEBINARS



JUNE 18TH

12:00-1:00 PM

Hosted by Mark Gibbon
NHSBSA SCS Team Technical Lead

NHSBSA and Dispex Webinar- Endorsing Inc Referred Backs

This Webinar will offer help and guidance on the most common endorsing problems to help 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 and how you can help to reduce or eliminate the need to refer prescriptions back to you.

FREE



MAY 21ST

12:00-1:00 PM



JULY 16TH

12:00-1:00 PM

Hosted by Mark Gibbon
NHSBSA SCS Team Technical Lead

NHSBSA and Dispex Webinar- Batch Submission & Switching

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 explain why prescriptions are switched between exempt and chargeable groups and how this affects your payments, as well as top tips on how to make sure switching isn't a problem in your dispensary.

FREE

DISPEX

Business Services Authority



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training@dispex.net

01604 859000 (10am-1pm)



Work-Life Harmony in Dispensing practice

Balancing the demands of a career in healthcare with personal responsibilities can be a daunting task. The nature of working in a dispensary requires dedication and focus, often leading to challenges in maintaining a healthy work-life balance. However, it's essential to prioritise your well-being to ensure you can continue to provide exceptional patient centred care.

Let's look at three practical steps you can take to achieve work-life harmony, while navigating the demands of a busy dispensing practice.

Step 1: Take Charge of Your Schedule

How do I know if my work-life balance isn't good? If you're constantly feeling overwhelmed, stressed, or exhausted, it's likely that your work-life balance is out of sync. Pay attention to physical and emotional signs of burnout, such as fatigue, irritability, and difficulty concentrating. If work is consuming all your time and energy, it's time to take action to restore balance.

Step 2: Prioritise Breaks Even in Busy Time

How do I take breaks when work is so demanding? Even in the busiest of work environments, it's crucial to prioritise breaks for your well-being. Start by scheduling short breaks throughout your day, even if it's just a few minutes to stretch or even take a quick walk.

Communicate with your colleagues about the importance of breaks for mental and physical health, and encourage

each other to take regular breaks, even during busy periods.

Step 3: Overcoming Challenges in Communicating with Colleagues

How do I speak to my colleagues about my struggles when we aren't that close as a team? It can be challenging to open up about personal struggles, especially in a professional setting. Start by building rapport with your colleagues through casual conversations and shared experiences. If you feel comfortable, approach a trusted colleague privately and express your concerns in a non-confrontational manner. Be honest about your struggles and ask for their support and understanding. You may be surprised at how supportive your colleagues can be, even if you aren't a close-knit team.

Finally: Approaching Your Manager with Concerns

If you're struggling to cope with the demands of your role or feel your work-life balance is out of sync, it's essential to speak up. Schedule a private meeting with your manager to discuss your concerns about your health, well-being, or work-life balance. Be honest and specific about the challenges you're facing and how you feel these factors are impacting your ability to perform effectively. Together, you can explore potential solutions and adjustments to help alleviate some of your stress and improve your overall well-being. Remember, your manager is there to support you, so don't hesitate to reach out for help when you need it.



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We can bring the training to you, our half day on-site training sessions allows full interaction between your team and our tutor. All we require is a suitable room where the group won't be disturbed. Access to your dispensary is handy, but not imperative.

While there are geographical limitations, if an in-person visit is not feasible, we can adapt most courses for delivery over a private Teams booking. Member prices start at £725+vat for a half day visit.

Utilise your next PLT date, contact the training department for further details!

Easy to visit areas:

- Warwick
- Worcester
- Oxford
- Leicester
- Gloucester
- Northampton
- Buckingham



training@dispex.net

DDA Conference 2024

Day 1: Wednesday 25 September 2024

08.30: Registration and Exhibition

09.30: Introduction and Welcome

Matthew Isom, DDA Chief Executive Officer

09.30: Keynote

The new inspection regime and dispensing – achieving the standards.

Mary Collier, Medicines Manager, Care Quality Commission, Medicines Optimisation Team

10.20: Sponsored Talk – Astra Zeneca

10.50: Refreshments & Exhibition Break

11.20: Dispensing State of the Nations

Dr Richard West and Matthew Isom, DDA

12.20: DDA AGM

12.30: Lunch & Exhibition Break

13.30: Sponsored Talk – Dispensing Doctor Experts

14.05: Overcoming Adversity in our Dispensary

Dr Daniel Edmonds, Dispensing Doctor Queen Camel Medical Centre, Somerset

14.55: Refreshments & Exhibition Break

15.30: Sponsored Talk - Dispex

16.05: HDA Supply Issues

Martin Sawyer, Executive Director, Healthcare Distribution Association

17:00: Drinks reception

[BOOK NOW >](#)



DDA Conference 2024

Day 2: Thursday 26 September 2024

08.15: Registration and Exhibition

09.15: Introduction and Welcome

Matthew Isom, DDA Chief Executive Officer

09.15: SPS and Dispensing Doctors

Dr Justine Scanlan, head of the Specialist Pharmacy Services (SPS) for NHS England

10.00: Sponsored Talk – General Practice Specialists Ltd

10.30: Refreshments & Exhibition Break

11.00: Regulations and Dispensing by doctors Charlotte Goodson, Adviser to PCC

11.40: Sponsored Talk – Dispensing Doctor Solutions

12.10: Lunch & Exhibition Break

13.00: Your Question Talk

The DDA Quizmasters

13.50: Refreshments & Exhibition Break

14.20: Sponsored Talk – Amarin

14.55: Fight the Financial Fright of General Practice

Mark Stone, DDA Board Member, GP Pharmacist Partner and PCN Clinical Director, Devon

16:00: Conference closes

This meeting has been sponsored by pharmaceutical companies, amongst others, who will be present with exhibition stands. The sponsoring companies have had no involvement with the organisation of the meeting or the agenda. The DDA would like to thank all the exhibitors for their support and look forward to meeting all the delegates and exhibitors





Establishing a protocol for monitoring staff competency and education will foster an atmosphere of continue professional development and growth. Through regular assessments, training programs, and opportunities for further education, employees can expand their knowledge base, refine their skills, and stay updated with the latest advancements in their fields. This proactive approach not only benefits individual staff members by empowering them to excel in their roles, but also contributes to the overall patient care.

As part of the 2006 General Medical Services changes, the Dispensary Services Quality Scheme (DSQS) was introduced. As you'll be aware this scheme ensures Practices provide high quality services to their dispensing patients. One element of the scheme relates to dispensary staff training. The Dispex SOP (DPX-QC7) was produced to help ensure your practice meets the minimum requirements of this particular element of DSQS.

Our SOP Staff Competency, Education & Training (DPX-QC7) covers:

- Practice Responsibilities and Overview of Training
- Level of minimum competency expected for each function performed by dispenser or staff working as a dispensary assistant
- Existing Dispensary Staff
- Trainee/New Dispensary Staff;
- Any new dispensers must be enrolled on competency based training within 3 months of starting with the practice.
- All unqualified dispensers will be encouraged to embark upon dispensing courses available to primary care. Such courses enable trainees to work at their own pace, working towards gaining NVQ Level Equivalent in Pharmacy Services.
- All new dispensary staff must complete, or have completed within the last 5 years at a GP dispensary or community pharmacy, 1000 hours supervised work experience in the dispensary. Any leave, such as

sickness or holiday, will not count towards the 1000 hours work experience.

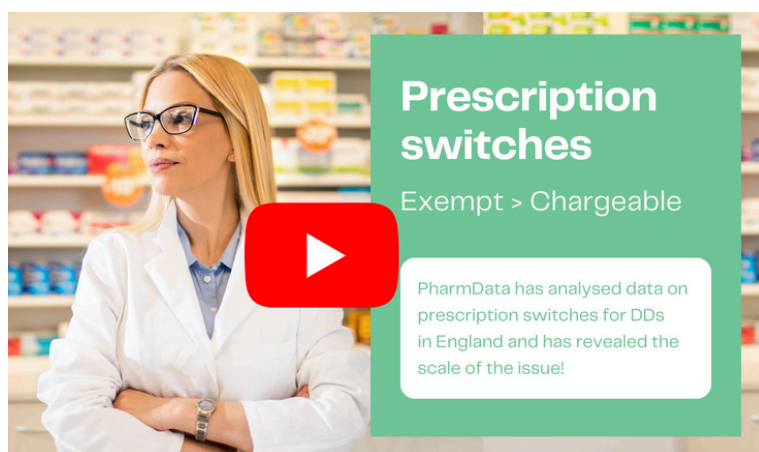
- Non-medical staff who assist within the dispensary on an occasional or limited basis.
 - Known Risks

Dispex members' can click [here](#) to login and download our full SOPs library. Additionally, members' can click [here](#) for a dispensary staff competencies check-sheet!

There are variations in the way Practices run their Dispensaries, our templates provide guidelines based on DSQS Minimum Requirements. You will need to tailor and adapt the content to your own circumstances and adjust each one to reflect the way your own Dispensary operates.

Dispex recommends that you practice the SOP for a few weeks and then review with your staff to decide whether it is working or if there are areas which need to be improved.

All relevant dispensary staff will need to read and sign the SOPs to show that they understand what it means. This is a good opportunity to identify competencies and for you to offer training and develop your staff. Dispex Ltd can accept no responsibility for the way in which these Templates may be used by Practices.





LUNCHTIME Tutorials

MAY 2024

- 15th May- Controlled Drugs Part 1
- 21st May- NHSBSA Batch & Switching (W)
- 22nd May- DSQS Guidance

JUNE 2024

- 12th June- Controlled Drugs Part 2
- 18th June- NHSBSA Endorsing inc Referred Backs (W)
- 26th June- Drug Tariff & Endorsing

Time: 1pm-2pm Webinar Time: 12pm start

Delegate Prices:

Members: £50+vat pp/ps Non: £75+vat pp/ps
W= Free webinar

[dispex.net/training](https://www.dispex.net/training) training@dispex.net

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Training For The Whole Team

Online learner-led modular training! Prices start at £24inc vat per Dispex member!

- DRUM Training
- Prescription Clerks Training
- Controlled Drugs
- PA's & VAT for Dispensing Practices
- Dispensing for New Dispensers
- Leading and Motivating a Team
- Planning and Allocating Work
- Stress Management
- Performance Management
- Conflict Management
- Discipline in the Workplace
- Organising and Delegating

- The Dispenser** (CLICK HERE)
- The Practice Manager** (CLICK HERE)
- The Dispensary Manager** (CLICK HERE)
- The Pharmacy Tech** (CLICK HERE)
- The Administrator** (CLICK HERE)
- The GP** (CLICK HERE)



Planning for your holiday home

If you have a holiday home, changes announced in the Budget mean you may want to take action before 5 April 2025.

One of the Budget giveaways was to reduce the top capital gains tax rate on the sale of residential property to 24%, down from 28%. However, current Government plans are to abolish the beneficial tax treatment for Furnished Holiday lettings (FHLs) from 6 April 2025.

The changes

The FHL regime treats qualifying residential short-term lettings as a trade for certain tax purposes. Once the regime is abolished, the tax benefits owners will lose include:

Mortgage Interest - is currently treated as a deduction from rental income. From April 2025, relief will instead be given as a 20% tax credit so for higher and additional rate taxpayers this means a reduction in tax relief (from 40% and 45% respectively).

Capital Gains - on disposal FHLs may currently qualify for business asset disposal relief (BADR, where the first £1m of lifetime gains are taxed at 10%). Alternatively, the gain can be 'rolled over' on purchase of a new business asset. From April 2025, the normal residential property CGT tax rate of 24% will apply.

Allowable Expenditure - FHL businesses are currently eligible for capital allowances (although whether there will be clawbacks on abolition is not yet clear). We do know that from April 2025, you will only be able to claim a deduction for the cost of replacing domestic items against your rents.

Pension Contributions - tax relief for pension contributions is limited to the higher of £3,600 or 100% of net 'relevant earnings'. Currently, FHL profits are treated as relevant earnings but that will no longer be the case from April 2025

What to do this year?

If you usually let out your holiday home sufficiently for it to qualify as a FHL (105 days out of 210 days available for letting) then there are choices to be made. If the current arrangements suit you, there may be no need to change but it is sensible to check how much extra tax you will pay.

Another option is to sell the property. Although the sale may qualify for BADR and even the headline rate of tax is also now reduced, the annual gains exemption has also reduced, so seek advice on your likely tax charge before you complete the transaction. Remember that capital gains on property need to be reported (and the tax paid) within 60 days of completion.

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Alternatively, it might be the right time to pass on the property to your family. Giving an asset to a 'connected relative' is treated as a disposal at market value. However, as an FHL property is a business asset, it may be possible to elect to 'holdover' any capital gain on disposal to relatives. Of course, if they subsequently sold it, CGT would be payable at 24% on any historic gains. In addition, the gift may have Inheritance Tax implications (particularly if you continue to use the property without paying rent), so consider your options carefully.

If your holiday home does not qualify as an FHL, there is no pressing need to act but, if you were considering it anyway, the 4% reduction in CGT may mean it is a good time to sell.

Whatever you have in mind for your holiday home, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our team to discuss your options.

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Nutritional Supplements Assorted Flavours-Missed Dispensing Fees for Services Rendered

If you kindly extend a selection of assorted flavours to your patients to ensure patient compliance and satisfaction, ensure you are compensated for providing this service.

In the realm of dispensing doctors, the pursuit of patient compliance stands as an essential objective for optimal treatment outcomes, as well as fostering a culture of patient-centred care. However, amidst the noble efforts of prioritising patient satisfaction and adherence through the provision of assorted flavours, it is important for practices to also consider the financial implications of such endeavours.

In the given context, you are eligible to receive compensation of five dispensing fees, if prescribed correctly. It is important that you ensure your GPs are prescribing assorted flavours for those patients who prefer a mixture, so the maximum number of dispensing fees can be claimed. If you prescribe starter packs, then you will automatically get 4-6 dispensing fees depending upon which brand of nutritional supplement you prescribe. The rule of thumb should be – all Nutritional supplements must either be prescribed as “starter packs”, named flavours (strawberry, mocha etc) or “assorted flavours” within the main body of the script. If they do NOT and you still affably dispense assorted, only ONE dispensing fee will be reimbursed!

Please note: according to the NHSBSA flavours not specified is NOT an indication of assorted flavours and will be returned to you for correction as there is no price in the DM+D!

For further guidance and for more information on endorsing and referred backs, please attend the upcoming FREE NHSBSA & Dispex **Webinars**.

Drug Tariff Changes

Each month we publish Additions and Deletions from the Drug Tariff that affect Dispensing doctors.

In addition, we sift through the Drug Changes to highlight commonly dispensed items, looking at whether the changes bring about a price rise or price drop.

This month has seen a huge number of changes, sometimes from Category M to A, or Category A to M, or even Category M to C or A to C.

Check out our **Drug Tariff updates** in our Members' Section. Ones to watch out for this month include a massive drop in the reimbursement price of Chloramphenicol eye drops x 5ml. Click **here** to see in full.

Category M Changes

The first Quarter of the 2024/25 financial year brings with it a net decrease in Category M prices once again. This adds pressure on dispensing doctors who often cannot dispense these generics without making a loss. The losses are compounded by the punitive 11.18% Discount Abatement (Clawback) applied to each and every product dispensed. Dispex members can access the **Generics Costing more than Tariff page** on the Dispex website to see how to mitigate against these losses. Click **here** to watch our short video on how to utilise the member's only tool!

There are 6 new products

- 118 Products have **DECREASED** in price by 20 pence or more
- A further 236 products have had their price **DECREASED** by less than 20 pence
- 18 Products prices have been unchanged
- 136 Products have had their price **INCREASED** by less than 20 pence
- 120 Products have had their price **INCREASE** by 20 pence or more

Note the following products. Expect a push by ICBs to switch to these products. Check our **Brand Comparisons** to ensure you do not land up dispensing these at a loss!

Product	Size	01 January 2024	01 April 2024
Apixaban 2.5mg tablets	60	4.92	2.91
Apixaban 5mg tablets	56	4.97	2.83
Sitagliptin 100mg tablets	28	6.34	3.66
Sitagliptin 25mg tablets	28	3.68	3.06
Sitagliptin 50mg tablets	28	5.41	3.52

HRT on PPC

April 2024



REMINDER

- Where automation has not been introduced yet, please bear in mind that prescribers must manually issue all HRT items for patients on PPC's as single-item prescriptions. This is because NHSBSA & 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 being charged.
- 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. Only HRT medicines published in the Drug Tariff Part XVI can be prescribed under the HRT PPC scheme, click **here** for the Drug Tariff.
- 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.

Click **here** to read in full.

Practice funding rise – An affordable and acceptable uplift? Source: Practice Index 18.4.24

Another funding storm is on the horizon with the recently announced rise in national practice contract funding for England.

For all the people working in general practice, a rise is a rise, but when it amounts to about 2% in the context of an overstretched service, in which some doctors working in other parts of the health service have been awarded double-digit pay rises, it's easy to feel underwhelmed.

Even worse, this uplift to the GMS contract is in dispute and may take months to be agreed as the BMA's members are considering taking industrial action involving doctors in primary care.

In this kind of climate, Practice Managers are understandably pondering what sort of steps they can take to keep their practices ticking over.

Click [here](#) to read in full.

Duty of Candour Review

Source: The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)

The DHSC is to review the statutory duty of candour for health and social care providers in England following reports that the duty is not always met as intended in regulation 20. In November 2014, the government introduced a statutory (organisational) duty of candour for NHS trusts and NHS foundation trusts via **Regulation 20 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014** ('regulation 20'). From April 2015, the duty extended to all other health and social care providers registered with the **Care Quality Commission (CQC)**, including care homes. The duty of candour is a crucial, underpinning aspect of an open and transparent culture which supports staff to be candid. The duty permits a level of scrutiny to be applied, which gives an opportunity to consider each situation objectively, look at what could have been done better and implement any necessary changes in order to advance patient safety.

The review is being conducted to understand to what extent the duty of candour is honoured, monitored and enforced. The **online survey** is open until 29th May 2024.

Click [here](#) for the source.

AI tools: A Practice Manager's friend or foe?

Source: Practice Index 25th April 2024

In recent years, the explosive growth of artificial intelligence or AI-powered applications has brought about a transformative wave across various industries, and healthcare is no exception. Click [here](#) to read in full.

**Calendar of national campaigns**

Handy links (text in bold) for upcoming national campaigns and awareness days to help you plan activities and your social pages.

**MAY****International Day of the Midwife**

May 5, 2024

International Confederation of Midwives

World Hand Hygiene Day

May 5 2024

WHO

Deaf Awareness Week

6-12 May 2024

Deaf Awareness Week

International Nurses Day

12 May 2024

International Council of Nurses

Mental Health Awareness Week

13-19 May 2024

How managers can support workplace mental wellbeing

**JUNE****Pride Month**

June

NHS Employers

Pride In London

Men's Health Week

12-18 June 2024

Men's Health Forum

Suicide prevention

Cervical Screening Awareness Week

17-23 June 2024

Jo's Trust



Membership Benefits

DISPEX

With the ongoing financial challenges confronting dispensing doctors, Dispex is supporting our members on a weekly basis! Dispex is led by two dispensing doctors who understand the complexities and intricacies of dispensing practices. Our focus on Training, Profitability, Information and Dispensing Supplies enables our members to significantly enhance the efficiency and profitability of their dispensaries.



Profitability Tools

Online Profitability Tools

Monthly lists of **generics costing more than tariff** | Brand Comparison | Benchmarking Resource | Positive PI's | Manufacturers Discount Updates



Training

Online Updates on

Concession prices changes | The Drug Tariff | Drug Supplies | Category M changes

Discounted Training

Tutor-led | Learner-led | Private Teams | On-site

Free Electronic CD register

Discounts on Dispensary Supplies

Owing Books, Denaturing Kits, Paper CD registers
- We also supply dosette trays

Advice & Support on dispensing issues



Supplies

MORE INFO

While The Gazette is accessible to non-members, access to our online profitability tables & guidance is exclusively reserved for Dispex members



Prescription Fee Increase

NHS Prescription Charges from 1st May 2024

Charges for NHS prescriptions increased on the 1st May 2024. The National Health Service (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 were laid before Parliament on 3 April 2024. The regulations set out the new charges for NHS prescription charges in England.

Charges for prescriptions and prescription prepayment certificates (PPCs) has increased by 2.59% (rounded to the nearest 5 pence) from 1st May 2024. Charges for wigs and fabric supports also increased by the same rate.

A prescription now costs £9.90 for each medicine or appliance dispensed, an increase of 25 pence. The 3-month PPC now costs £32.05 and the 12-month PPC costs £114.50.

The hormone replacement therapy (HRT) PPC now costs £19.80, an increase of 50 pence. This is because the rate is set at twice the single prescription charge.

Full details of the new charges are in the table below.

Item	1 April 2023 to 30 April 2024)	Charge from 1 May 2024	Change in £
Single prescription charge	£9.65	£9.90	£0.25
3-month PPC	£31.25	£32.05	£0.80
12-month PPC	£111.60	£114.50	£2.90
HRT PPC	£19.30	£19.80	£0.50

Members' can download a patient poster here

DISPEX ANSWERS

The experts at Dispex provide answers to the most common questions, quoting the relevant regulations.

Q: Just double checking that we can dispense to patients when a GP is not present in the building?

A: Dispex members can login [here](#) to find out

We will continue to add more questions and answers as time goes on.



Here to HELP

Don't forget Dispex members have access to our support helplines!



enquiries@dispex.net



01604 859000 (10am-1pm)



dispex.net

Join Dispex



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 PRACTICE INDEX







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Dispex is working with **Practice Index** to inform dispensing practices about the numerous benefits of our services and membership. We highly value your custom and would be grateful for your feedback regarding our services. It can take as little as 60 seconds to leave a review. Please click [here](#) to leave us your thoughts. **THANK YOU**



Time-saving profitability tools



Love DispexCD, we'll never go back to paper registers



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