



Prescription Services

**BNF Classification
and
Pseudo Classification
Used by the NHS
Prescription Services**

**Incorporating Changes
up to and including
BNF Number 58
September 2009**

BNF Classification and Pseudo Classification used by the NHS Prescription Services

Whilst the NHS Prescription Services uses a therapeutic classification system based on and closely following the BNF, there are occasions when this is not possible. The chapter, paragraph etc headings and the classification of drugs and appliances used by the NHS Prescription Services for PACT, ePACT.NET, PCA and the Prescribing Toolkit has to cover all items prescribable on the NHS in England. They may therefore not always equate exactly with the British National Formulary (BNF).

Three potential areas of difference

- The BNF chapter and section headings may be slightly modified, especially to cope with the limited space on the paper reports.
- Items detailed in the BNF may be classified by the NHS Prescription Services under pseudo BNF classifications.
- Additional Pseudo BNF chapters, sections, paragraphs etc have been created by the NHS Prescription Services to either reclassify items e.g. appliances which are shown in appendices of the BNF, to accommodate preparations not listed in the BNF including unlicensed medicines, or to further sub classify within existing BNF chapters, paragraphs etc.

Where products are discontinued and result in complete paragraphs being deleted from the BNF, NHS Prescription Services based classification remains in order that historical data is available.

A number of products are shown in more than one chapter of the BNF. These will be shown as a single entry under the main therapeutic indication.

NHS Prescription Services Code Structure

The structure used by the NHS Prescription Services encompasses four levels

- A two digit chapter heading with leading zero where required
- A two digit section heading with leading zero where required
- A two digit paragraph heading with leading zero where required
- A single digit sub paragraph heading.

Where the BNF does not extend to all these levels, the record is filled with zeros.

Drugs not Covered by the BNF

Pseudo Chapter 19 headed 'Other Drugs and Preparations' includes many drugs and preparations under various paragraph headings which are occasionally prescribed either individually or as an ingredient of an extemporaneously prepared preparation. Similarly other products occasionally prescribed are classified under a number of paragraph headings e.g. 'Alcohol, wines and spirits', 'Homeopathic preparations', 'Poisoning antidotes', 'Disinfectants' and 'Lubricating jellies'.

Annual Amendments

Amendments to section headings and item classifications are made once each year to take effect from prescriptions dispensed from that January. They reflect the changes, which have taken place in the two editions of the BNF issued during the previous year.

The information detailed from January 2009 therefore reflects differences up to and including BNF edition 58 issued September 2009.

For Further Information

Questions relating to this booklet and the classification used by the NHSBSA Prescription Services should be raised with the Routine Analysis Team, Professional Services.

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**BNF Chapter and Section Headings
that have been Slightly Modified
(Apart from abbreviations)**

Chapter	BNF Heading	NHS Prescription Services Heading
01:03	Antisecretory drugs and mucosal protectants	Antisecretory Drugs+Mucosal Protectants
1:03:06	N/A	Other Antisec Drugs+Mucosal Protectants
01:07:04:0	Management of anal fissures	Management of Anal Fissures
02:02:04	Potassium-sparing diuretics with other diuretics	Potassium Sparing Diuretics & Compounds
02:05	Hypertension and heart failure	Hypertension and Heart Failure
02:05:05	Drugs affecting the renin-angiotensin system	Renin-Angiotensin System Drugs
02:06	Nitrates, calcium-channel blockers & other antianginal drugs	Nit,Calc Block & other Antianginal Drugs
03:02	Corticosteroids	Corticosteroids (Respiratory)
03:03	Cromoglicate, related Therapy and Leukotriene Receptor Antagonists	Cromoglycate, Rel, Leukotriene Antagonists
03:04	Antihistamines, hyposensitisation and allergic emergencies	Antihist, Hyposensit & Allergic Emergen
04:04:00	CNS Stimulants and drugs used for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder	CNS Stimulants and drugs used for ADHD
04:05:01	Anti-obesity drugs acting on the gastro-intestinal tract	Gastro-Intestinal Anti-Obesity Drugs
04:07:03	Neuropathic pain	Neuropathic Pain
05:01:06	Clindamycin	Clindamycin and Lincomycin
05:01:11	Metronidazole and Tinidazole	Metronidazole, Tinidazole & Ornidazole
06:01:05	Treatment of Diabetic Nephropathy and Neuropathy	Diabetic Nephropathy & Neuropathy
06:01:06	Diagnostic and monitoring agents for diabetes mellitus	Diabetic Diagnostic (Monitoring Agents)
06:03	Corticosteroids	Corticosteroids (Endocrine)
07:03:02:3	Intra-uterine Progesterone-only device	IUD Progesterone-only Device
08:01:02	Anthracyclines an other cytotoxic antibodies	Anthracyclines & Cytotoxic Antibiotics.
09:01:04:0	Drugs used in platelet disorders	Drugs used in Platelet Disorders

Chapter	BNF Heading	NHS Prescription Services Heading
09:01:07:0	N/A	Drugs used in Stem Cell Mobilisation
09:05:01:02	Hypercalcaemia + Hypercalcuria	Hypercalcaemia
09:05:04	Zinc	Zinc & Other Minerals
10:01:03	Drugs which suppress the rheumatic disease process	Rheumatic Disease Suppressant Drugs
12:01:03	Removal of Ear Wax	Removal of Ear Wax and other Substances
12:02:03	Nasal preparations for infection	Nasal Prepn for Infection
13:01	Management of Skin Conditions	Vehicles and Emulsifying Agents
13:01:01	Vehicles	Vehicles and Emulsifying Agents
13:08:01	Sunscreen preparations	Sunscreening preparations
13:09:00:0	Shampoos and other preparations for scalp and hair conditions	Shampoo & Other Preps For Scalp & Hair Cond
13:11:06	Oxidisers, and dyes	Oxidisers & Dyes
13:13	Wound management Products & elastic hosiery	Wound Management Products
13:14	N/A	Topical Circulatory Preparations
14:03	Storage and Usage	Diagnostic Vaccines
15:01:06	Drugs for Reversal Neuro-Muscular Blockade	Anticholinesterases used in Anaesthesia
15:01:07	Antagonists for central and respiratory depression	Antagonists for Respiratory Depression

**Items Detailed in the BNF that have been classified
by the NHS Prescription Services under Pseudo BNF
Classifications**

BNF Chapter	BNF Heading	NHS Prescription Services Chapter	NHS Prescription Services Classification
01:08	Stoma Care	23	contains all stoma care appliances (DT Part IXC)
03:01:05	Peak Flow Meters, Inhaler devices and Nebulisers	21:12	Peak Flow Meters
		21:01:02:03 21:01:10:0	Inhaler devices
		-	Nebulisers in BNF are not prescribable.
06:01:01:3	Hypodermic Equipment	21:01:09	Hypodermic Equipment (DT Part IXA)
07:03:04	Contraceptive Devices	21:04:00	Contraceptive Devices
07:05	Appliances for urinary disorders	22	Urinary Appliances (DT Part IXB)
13:11	Skin cleansers and antiseptics	21:16	Irrigation Fluids
App 8	Wound management products and elastic hosiery.	20	Drug Tariff Dressings
		21	Drug Tariff Appliances (ex Dressings)
		13:13:01	Medicated Stockings
		13:13:02	Surgical Adhesive removers
		13:13:08	Gel and Colloid dressings

Pseudo BNF Chapters, Sections, Paragraphs etc which have been created by the NHS Prescription Services to either reclassify items, to accommodate preparations not listed in the BNF or to sub-classify within existing BNF chapters etc.

Chapter	NHS Prescription Services Title	Comments
01:03:00	Test for Helicobacter pylori	Sub-section heading only in BNF
01:03:06	Other Ulcer-Healing Drugs	Original BNF chapter. Deleted version 52
01:08:01:0	Local Care of Stoma	Inc products previously classified as Stoma Adjuncts in the Drug Tariff Part IXC and are discontinued
02:05:06	Ganglion-Blocking Drugs	Original BNF chapter. Deleted version 52
02:05:07	Tyrosine Hydroxylase Inhibitors	Original BNF chapter. Deleted version 52
02:06:05	Flosequinan	Original BNF chapter. Deleted version 33
02:06:07	I(F) Channel Blockers	Not used by BNF
02:06:10	Other Vasodilators for Angina	Not used by BNF
02:08:02:0	INR Blood Testing Reagents	More appropriate to add to this section
03:04:02:1	Diagnostic Skin testing Agents	
09:01:07	Drugs Used in Platelet Disorders	
09:05:04:1	Zinc	BNF 09:05:04 – Zinc has been subdivided to cover other minerals etc.
09:05:04:2	Chromium	
09:05:04:3	Dolomite	
09:05:04:4	Kelp	
09:05:04:5	Manganese	
09:05:04:7	Selenium	Selenium has now been added to BNF 54 in 09:05:05.
09:05:04:8	Other Mineral Formulations	
09:06:01:1	Vitamin A	BNF 09:06:01 – Vitamin A has been subdivided to cover different presentations of Vitamin A
09:06:01:2	Beta-Carotene	
09:06:01:7	Other Vitamin A preparations	
09:06:02:1	Cyanocobalamin (B12)	BNF 09:06:02 – Vitamin B has been subdivided into different forms of Vitamin B. This also includes the various healthfood
09:06:02:2	Nicotinamide (B7)	
09:06:02:3	Pantothenic Acid (Calc Pantotethenate)	

Chapter	NHS Prescription Services Title	Comments
09:06:02:4	Pyridoxine Hydrochloride (B6)	type vitamin B supplements
09:06:02:5	Riboflavine (B2)	
09:06:02:6	Thiamine Hydrochloride (B1)	
09:06:02:7	Vitamin B Compound	
09:06:02:8	Other Vitamin B Preparations	
09:06:02:9	Laetrile (Vitamin B17)	
09:06:03:1	Vitamin C (Ascorbic Acid)	BNF 09:06:03 – Vitamin C has been subdivided into different forms of Vitamin C. This includes healthfood type Vitamin C supplements
09:06:03:2	Vitamin C & Bioflavonoids	
09:06:03:3	Other Vitamin C Preparations	
09:06:04:0	Vitamin D	BNF 09:06:04 Vitamin D has been subdivided to cover healthfood type Vitamin D supplements
09:06:04:8	Other Vitamin D Preparations	
09:06:05:0	Vitamin E	BNF 09:06:05- Vitamin E has been subdivided to cover healthfood type Vitamin E supplements
09:06:05:8	Other Vitamin E Preparations	
09:06:08	Other Vitamin Formulations	
09:09	Foods	excludes special diets
09:10	Compound Vit/Mineral Formulations	
09:11	Health Supplements	
09:11:01	Amino Acids & Nutritional Agents	
09:11:02	Enzymes	
09:11:03	Glandular	
09:11:04	Digestive Aids	
09:12	Other Health Supplements	Excludes those covered above in 09:11
11:08:03	Other Eye preparations	
11:08:05	Preparations for Cataracts	
12:03:04:1	Breath Fresheners/Disclosing preparations	

Chapter	NHS Prescription Services Title	Comments
13:02:03	Dusting Powders	Was quoted in BNF. However when Talc Dusting Powder, Zinc Starch & Talc Dusting Powder and Zeasorb were moved, this subparagraph was deleted from BNF 37
13:05:00	Preparations For Eczema + Psoriasis	
13:06:00	Preps for Acne	
13:13:01	Medicated Stockings	Covered in Appendix 8 of BNF
13:13:02	Surgical Adhesive Removers	
13:13:08	Gel & Colloid Dressings	See 20:03 for Wound management products
13:14	Topical Circulatory Preparations	Listed in BNF Chapter 13:13
13:15:00:0	Miscellaneous Topical Preparations	
15:02:01	Local Anaesthetics	BNF 15:02 split into two pseudo chapters
15:02:02	Adjuncts to intractable pain spasticity	
18	Preparations used in Diagnosis	
18:01	Urine Testing Reagents	
18:02	Blood Testing Reagents	
18:03	X-Ray Contrast media	
18:04	Diagnostic Agents	
18:05	Special Sanctions Reagents	
19	Other Drugs and Preparations	
19:01	Alcohol, Wines and Spirits	
19:02:01	Individually formulated preparations bought in	
19:02:02	Individually formulated preparations prepared Extemporaneously	
19:02:03	Homeopathic Preparations	
19:02:05	Household and other Over The Counter Lines	
19:02:07	Poisoning Antidotes	
19:03	Adjuncts to Dispensing	
19:04	Single Substances	

Chapter	NHS Prescription Services Title	Comments
19:05	Other Preparations	
19:06	Acids	
19:06:01	Concentrated Waters	
19:06:02	Essences	
19:06:03	Extracts	
19:06:04	Infusions	
19:06:05	Oils	
19:06:06	Tinctures	
19:06:07	Syrups	
19:07	Bases/Dil/Susp Agents/Stabilisers	
19:08	Colouring, Flavouring & Sweetening Agents	
19:09	Disinfectants, Preserv & Sterilising Agents	
19:10	Polysorbates & Tweens	
19:11	Lubricating Jelly/Pessaries	Not in Part IX of DT see also 21:14
19:12	Electrode/Ultrasonic Gels	
19:13	Cordials/Soft Drinks	
19:14	Waters	
19:14:01	Sterile Water	
19:04:02	Purified Water	
19:04:03	Tap Water	
19:04:04	Spring/Mineral & Soda Waters	
19:15	Other Gases	
20	Drug Tariff Dressings	
20:01	Absorbant Cottons	
20:02	Arm Slings/Bandages	
20:03	Wound Management & Other Dressings	
20:04	Gauzes & Gauze Tissue	
20:05	Tracheostomy & Laryngectomy Appliances	
20:06	Foam	
20:07	Lints	
20:08	Plasters	
20:09	Stockinette	
20:10	Surgical Adhesive Tape	
20:11	Surgical Sutures	
20:12	Swabs	
20:13	Unspecified Dressing	
20:14	Skin Closure Strips, Sterile	

Chapter	NHS Prescription Services Title	Comments
20:15	Skin Adhesive, Sterile	
20:16	Tapeless Holders	
20:17	Cervical Collar	
20:18	Cellulose Wadding BP 1988	
20:20	Silk Garments	
21	Drug Tariff Appliances	DT Part IXA excluding Dressings
21:01	Other Appliances	Not covered by specified sections
21:02	Catheters	
21:03	Chiropody Appliances	
21:04	Contraceptive Devices	See BNF 07:03:04
21:05	Suprapubic appliances	
21:06	Trusses	
21:07	Elastic Hosiery	
21:08	Oxygen Masks	
21:09	Special Sanction Authorisations	
21:10	CAPD Administration Equipment	
21:11	Special Authorisation in Guernsey	
21:12	Peak Flow Meters	See BNF 03:01:05
21:13	Catheter Maintenance Solutions	See BNF 07:04:04
21:14	Lubricant Gels	In Part IX of DT – others see 19.11
21:16	Irrigation Solutions	Drug Tariff Part IXA
21:17	Nasal Device	Drug Tariff Part IXA
21:18	Vacuum Pumps For Erectile Dysfunction	Drug Tariff Part IXA
21:19	Oral Film Foaming Agents	Drug Tariff Part IXA
21:20	Venous Ulcer Compression System	Drug Tariff Part IXA
21:21	Dry Mouth Products	Drug Tariff Part IXA
21:22	Emollients	Drug Tariff Part IXA
21:23	Vaginal Moisturisers	Drug Tariff Part IXA
21:24	Nasal Products	Drug Tariff Part IXA
21:25	Vaginal Dilators	Drug Tariff Part IXA
21:26	Leg Ulcer Wrap	Drug Tariff Part IXA

Chapter	NHS Prescription Services Title	Comments
21:27	Lymphoedema Garments	Drug Tariff Part IXA
21:28	Anal Irrigation System	Drug Tariff Part IXA
21:29	Plantar Pressure Offloading Device	Drug Tariff Part IXA
21:30	Eye Products	Drug Tariff Part IXA
21:31	Cycloidal Vibration Accessories	Drug Tariff Part IXA
21:32	Inhalation Solutions	Drug Tariff Part IXA
21:33	Indwelling Pleural Cath Drain System	Drug Tariff Part IXA
21:34	Vaginal PH Correction Gels	Drug Tariff Part IXA
21:35	Acne Treatment	Drug Tariff Part IXA
22	Incontinence Appliances	DT Part IXB
23	Stoma Appliances	DT Part IXC

**Changes made between BNF Versions
55/56 and 57/58 that are reflected in the current NHS Prescription
Services Classification**

Version 55/56		Version 57/58	
BNF	Title	BNF	Entry
01:05:00	Chronic Bowel Disorders	01:05:00	Chronic Bowel Disorders
		01:05:01	Aminosalicylates
		01:05:02	Corticosteroids
		01:05:03	Drugs affecting Immune Response
		01:05:04	Food Allergy
05:01:02:0	Cephalosporins and other Beta-Lactams	05:01:02:0	Cephalosporins and other Beta-Lactams
		05:01:02:1	Cephalosporins
		05:01:02:2	Carbapenems
		05:01:02:3	Other Beta-Lactam Antibiotics
14:05:00	Other Immunoglobulins	14:05:00	Other Immunoglobulins
		14:05:01	Normal Immunoglobulin
		14:05:02	Disease-Specific Immunoglobulins
		14:05:03	Anti-D (RhO) Immunoglobulin

Note, the above shows the changes made to the BNF chapters. The table should be read in conjunction with the previous tables to show variations in the headings used in the NHS Prescription Services database.

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