

# Hints & Tips

**Prescription**  
Information Services

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Issue 21



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# Welcome to the October 2015 issue of Hints & Tips!

If you've got a hint or tip that you would like us to write about in a future edition, please email it to:

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Welcome to the October 2015 issue of Hints & Tips, your regular newsletter full of updates and information.

In this issue we're looking at when practices should claim for vaccines on FP34D/PD Appendix forms, the importance of nurse prescribers using the correct identifier on prescription forms and changes to the format of BNF publications. We've highlighted changes to the MO KTT/Volume and Cost Comparator reports and the inclusion of a new set of Common Information reports on the Information Services Portal, and there's information on the Repeat Dispensing report along with an update on the Potential Generic Savings report.

We've also included details of products which now have licensed equivalents available, how unidentified drug codes are reported and used, and where to find information on the availability of Information Services systems and reports.

If you have any suggestions for topics you'd like to see included in a future edition, please contact us at:  
[nhsbsa.communicationsteam@nhs.net](mailto:nhsbsa.communicationsteam@nhs.net)



## MO KTT/Volume and Cost Comparators – Information Services Portal

Surveys conducted recently by the NHSBSA's Information Services team have shown that you would like the data for the quarterly reports to be made available each month.

You also told us that you'd like more historic data published. We've taken your comments on board and the Medicines Optimisation Key Therapeutic Topics (MO KTT) and Volume and Cost Comparator reports are now available via the Information Services Portal (ISP) on a monthly rolling basis.

This means you can access revised reports every month providing data for a rolling quarter. The prescribing trend compared reports will continue to show the fiscal quarter periods.

We've also increased the amount of historic data available for these comparators and you can now access data for the latest eight quarters.



## Common Information reports

A new set of reports containing information which is commonly requested through Freedom of Information requests is now available on the Information Services Portal (ISP). The reports are categorised as either Dispensing Data, Organisation Data or Prescribing Data. Examples include information such as Dispensing Contractor and Prescriber location details.

## Potential Generic Savings report

Regular readers might remember that in the last issue of Hints and Tips we asked for feedback on the Potential Generic Savings report which is currently under review. Thank you to everyone who provided us with comments. Your feedback is very much appreciated and will be used to shape the future content of the report. We will share the outcome of the review with you very soon.

## Availability of systems/reports

The NHSBSA's Information Services team regularly publish information on the NHSBSA website regarding planned dates for when Information Services systems and reports will be available. Actual release dates are also included. This information is closely monitored and where possible the actual release dates are brought forward.

You can find this information here: <http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/950.aspx>



# Did you know?

## Licensed equivalents now available

Licensed products are now available for the following products:

Generic description	Licensed product
Amlodipine 5mg/5ml (1mg/1ml) oral solution sugar free	AAH Pharmaceuticals Ltd x 150ml Alliance Healthcare (Distribution) Ltd x 150ml Rosemont Pharmaceuticals Ltd x 150ml Thame Laboratories Ltd x 150ml
Amlodipine 10mg/5ml (2mg/1ml) oral solution sugar free	AAH Pharmaceuticals Ltd x 150ml Alliance Healthcare (Distribution) Ltd x 150ml Rosemont Pharmaceuticals Ltd x 150ml Thame Laboratories Ltd x 150ml
Clobazam 5mg/5ml (1mg/1ml) oral suspension sugar free	AAH Pharmaceuticals Ltd x 150ml Perizam 1mg/ml oral suspension x 150ml (Rosemont Pharmaceuticals Ltd) Tapclob 5mg/5ml oral suspension x 150ml (Martindale Pharmaceuticals Ltd)
Clobazam 10mg/5ml (2mg/1ml) oral suspension sugar free	AAH Pharmaceuticals Ltd x 150ml Perizam 2mg/ml oral suspension x 150ml (Rosemont Pharmaceuticals Ltd) Tapclob 10mg/5ml oral suspension x 150ml (Martindale Pharmaceuticals Ltd)
Colecalciferol 3,000units/ml (15,000units/5ml) oral solution	AAH Pharmaceuticals Ltd x 100ml Alliance Healthcare (Distribution) Ltd x 100ml Thame Laboratories Ltd x 100ml
Everolimus 250microgram tablets	Certican 0.25mg tablets x 60 pack (Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK Ltd)
Everolimus 500microgram tablets	Certican 0.5mg tablets x 60 pack (Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK Ltd)
Everolimus 750microgram tablets	Certican 0.75mg tablets x 60 pack (Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK Ltd)
Midodrine 2.5mg tablets	Bramox 2.5mg tablets x 100 pack (Brancaster Pharma Ltd)
Midodrine 5mg tablets	Bramox 5mg tablets x 100 pack (Brancaster Pharma Ltd)
Oxybutynin 5mg/5ml (1mg/1ml) oral solution sugar free	AAH Pharmaceuticals Ltd x 150ml Alliance Healthcare (Distribution) Ltd x 150ml Thame Laboratories Ltd x 150ml



There is now a licensed equivalent available for Amlodipine 5mg/5ml oral solution sugar free x 150ml and Amlodipine 10mg/5ml oral solution sugar free x 150ml. Where appropriate, this should therefore be preferred to the Special Order options of Amlodipine oral solution and Amlodipine oral suspension.

Where Clobazam 5mg/5ml and 10mg/5ml oral suspension is required, prescribers may consider Clobazam 5mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free and Clobazam 10mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free as there are licensed sugar free options available.

There is now a licensed product available for Everolimus 250microgram, 500 microgram and 750microgram tablets. Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK Ltd have licensed Certican 0.25mg tablets x 60 pack, Certican 0.5mg tablets x 60 pack and Certican 0.75mg tablets x 60 pack. Previously the 0.25mg and 0.75mg strengths could only be imported as Zortress 250microgram tablets and Zortress 750microgram tablets.

Where either Midodrine 2.5mg and 5mg tablets are prescribed, prescribers do not therefore need to indicate this item as 'special' unless there is a clinical need for a special order item to be supplied.

Oxybutynin 5mg/5ml oral solution sugar free x 150ml is now a licensed product and this should be used in preference to Oxybutynin 5mg/5ml oral solution (Special Order). There should no longer be any need to prescribe Oxybutynin 5mg/5ml oral solution sugar free (Special Order).

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## Unidentified drug codes

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The NHS Business Services Authority uses 'Unidentified' drug codes to process items which are not listed on our database. These may include imported drugs, some special order items or newly launched drugs.

We understand the importance of being able to identify and monitor what has been prescribed, so if sufficient information is available the products captured as unidentified are routinely added to our database. This means that prescribing of these items can be monitored more effectively in future.

We can now also provide detailed information for all items which have been captured as unidentified drugs and have a value of over £75 in each processing period. This information is sent to CCGs every month and covers 79% of the total cost of unidentified drug codes.





## Centrally supplied vaccines

Please remind practices that where they have centrally procured vaccines through Public Health England, they should not make a claim to the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) under personal administration arrangements on form FP34D/PD Appendix or FP10.

Last year we saw an increase in claims for items including Fluenz Tetra nasal spray suspension Influenza vaccine, NeisVac-C vaccine and Boostrix IPV injection on forms FP34D/PD Appendix and FP10, which practices later verified had been centrally procured via a vaccine ordering facility such as ImmForm. Practices must not submit payment claims for vaccines or injections obtained in this way to the NHSBSA.

An FP34D/PD Appendix or FP10 form should only be submitted for payment to cover the 'dispensing' of a vaccine by personal administration where the vaccine has been purchased by the practice.

## Repeat Dispensing report (including EPS items)

Repeat Dispensing reports are available on the Information Services Portal under the Prescribing Monitoring category on the main menu. These reports provide information on the percentage of repeat dispensing at both cost and item level. For both levels of reports, three types of data view are available, depending on your permissions:

- National Totals - shows the national summary of Area Team totals
- Area Team Totals - shows the totals for all the Clinical Commissioning Groups allocated to the Area Team
- Primary Care Organisation (PCO) Totals - shows the details for the selected PCO's child practices and the details of individual prescribers associated with them.



## Nurse prescribing

The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) continues to receive prescription forms annotated with a CN identifier from nurse prescribers. These forms ceased to be in circulation from 1 April 2013 with a six month expiry date, so these nurses may be using old prescription pads or there might be a problem with the system they are using. The volume of national unidentified prescribing is not decreasing on the scale which was expected and this issue may be part of the reason.

Until we fully understand the reasons behind this issue, any prescription forms with a CN identifier will be processed as follows:

1. Assigned to the practice nurse if there is enough information provided to do so.
2. Assigned to the senior partner at the practice and processed as an FP10 if there is not enough information provided to assign to the practice nurse but the practice can be identified.
3. Processed as national unidentified prescribing if there is not enough information provided to assign to either the practice nurse or the practice. In this case, Clinical Commissioning Groups are recharged for a proportion of these costs.

We also often receive practice nurse prescription forms which show the nurse's name but use the GP's spurious code. This also causes problems in processing the forms and in these cases the item costs will be assigned to the GP using the spurious code.





## BNF changes

Did  
you  
know?

The publishers of the BNF have recently announced changes to the format of BNF publications from September 2015. The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) is aware of the changes and of the potential impact they might have on how we code and classify drugs for use in our information systems and published reports.

The NHSBSA and Health and Social Care Information Centre are working together to evaluate the impact of the changes on our information systems. In the meantime, there will be no immediate effect on how we classify and report our data which will continue to follow BNF 68. We will provide further updates once the evaluation is complete.

## Your dedicated helpline



For further information  
please contact the Information  
Services  
Support Team:

0191 2035050

or email:

[nhsbsa.help@nhs.net](mailto:nhsbsa.help@nhs.net)