

Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) for Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution – corresponding guidance on endorsement, prescription charges, remuneration and reimbursement plus Q&A.

SSP 042 for Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution

1) Endorsement

The contractor must endorse the prescription form or Electronic Reimbursement Endorsement Message (EREM) as per Clause 9, Part II of the Drug Tariff.

Electronic prescription:

Where SSP endorsement functionality is available on the dispensing system the contractor must select SSP and input the three-digit reference number, leaving a space between SSP and the reference number, as shown below. The contractor must also select in the system the SSP item that has been supplied.

Example	Endorsement Option
<p>Example 1: Prescription for Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution x 100ml</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor supplies Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution x 200ml</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor selects in system Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution x 200ml</p>	SSP 042
<p>Example 2: Prescription for Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution x 100ml</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor supplies Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution sugar free x 200ml</p>	SSP 042

Pharmacy contractor selects in system Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution sugar free x 200ml	
Example 3: Prescription for Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution x 100ml Pharmacy contractor supplies Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg tablets x 20 tablets Pharmacy contractor selects in system Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg tablets x 20 tablets	SSP 042

Non-electronic prescription form:

Example	Endorsement Option
Example 1: Prescription for Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution x 100ml Pharmacy contractor supplies Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution x 200ml	SSP 042 Pharmacy contractor endorses Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution x 200ml
Example 2: Prescription for Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution x 100ml Pharmacy contractor supplies Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution sugar free x 200ml	SSP 042 Pharmacy contractor endorses Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution sugar free x 200ml
Example 3: Prescription for Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution x 100ml Pharmacy contractor supplies Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg tablets x 20 tablets	SSP 042 Pharmacy contractor endorses Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg tablets x 20 tablets

2) Prescription charges

Pharmacy contractors must take one prescription levy. Only one prescription charge will be applicable for patients who are not exempt from prescription charges.

3) Remuneration

Supply in accordance with this SSP 042 will result in the following fees being paid to the contractor:

- One Single Activity Fee (£1.27)
- One SSP fee (£5.35)

4) Reimbursement

The supplied product in accordance with this SSP 042 will be reimbursed as if it was dispensed against a prescription. In this instance, contractors will be reimbursed the Part VIIIA reimbursement price for the quantity supplied and endorsed for the specified products and strengths listed below:

- Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution
- Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution sugar free
- Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg tablets

The reimbursement price will account for VAT payment.

Q&A

Will the SSP apply to cross-border prescriptions?

Yes. Patients from England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland who present their prescriptions for Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution are eligible to receive a substituted product under the terms of this SSP 042.

Does the SSP apply to private prescriptions?

Yes. The scope of this SSP 042 applies to valid prescriptions that meets the requirements of the Human Medicine Regulations 2012, so it would cover both NHS and private prescriptions, unless where it stated otherwise on the SSP itself.

Will prescription charges apply under the SSP?

Yes, patients who are not exempt from prescription charges would continue to pay for this as usual. The only circumstance in which patients would not have to pay for a prescription charge is where an SSP recommends a lower quantity to be supplied.

Please note that the SSP for Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution does not recommend a lower quantity to be supplied, so patients will continue to pay

prescription charges (unless they are already exempt). For more information, please see the above guidance.

Why does SSP042 not give an option to supply Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution sugar free?

If the prescription is for Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution, then the pharmacist can already supply either the sugar-free or the sugar-containing oral solution. Therefore, this does not require an SSP.

How would the pharmacists determine whether the tablets should be supplied in accordance with this SSP?

The pharmacist will need to discuss with the patient/carer **and** use their professional judgment when determining what should be supplied in accordance with this SSP 042. Where the pharmacist only can source the tablets, the pharmacist will have to be satisfied that the patient is able to accommodate the switch from liquid to tablet.

When the medicine is for a child and the pharmacist deems it appropriate to substitute to the tablet form in accordance with this SSP, patients/carers should be directed to the following guidance: [Using solid oral dosage form antibiotics in children – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service.](#)

Does special container apply for any of the substituted products in this SSP?

Pharmacy contractors should note that the following products that can be substituted are a special container and should endorse the prescription accordingly:

- Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution
- Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution sugar free

Can pharmacists use their professional judgement to supply an alternative product to patients?

Supply in accordance with this SSP 042 only allows supply of a specific substitution up to the duration of treatment prescribed. However, if the pharmacist thinks that an alternative product would be suitable for the patient, they should either contact the prescriber to discuss this (with the patient's consent) or direct the patient back to the prescriber.

Does the SSP apply to other antibiotics?

No, this SSP 042 only applies to prescriptions for Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution.