

Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) for Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution – corresponding guidance on endorsement, prescription charges, remuneration and reimbursement plus Q&A.

SSP 043 for Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/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. The contractor must also select in the system the SSP item that has been supplied.

Example	Endorsement
	Option
<p>Example 1: Prescription for Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution x 100ml</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor supplies Amoxicillin 125mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free x QUANTITY IN LINE WITH SSP*</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor selects in system Amoxicillin 125mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free x QUANTITY IN LINE WITH SSP*</p>	<p>SSP 043</p> <p>Amoxicillin 125mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free x QUANTITY IN LINE WITH SSP*</p>
<p>Example 2: Prescription for Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution x 100ml</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor supplies Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension x QUANTITY IN LINE WITH SSP*</p>	<p>SSP 043</p> <p>Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension x QUANTITY IN LINE WITH SSP*</p>

<p>Pharmacy contractor selects in system Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension x QUANTITY IN LINE WITH SSP*</p>	
<p>Example 3: Prescription for Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution x 100ml</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor supplies Flucloxacillin 125mg/5ml oral solution sugar free x QUANTITY IN LINE WITH SSP*</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor selects in system Flucloxacillin 125mg/5ml oral solution sugar free x QUANTITY IN LINE WITH SSP*</p>	<p>SSP 043</p> <p>Flucloxacillin 125mg/5ml oral solution sugar free x QUANTITY IN LINE WITH SSP*</p>
<p>Example 4: Prescription for Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution x 100ml</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor supplies Cefalexin 125mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free x QUANTITY IN LINE WITH SSP*</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor selects in system Cefalexin 125mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free x QUANTITY IN LINE WITH SSP*</p>	<p>SSP 043</p> <p>Cefalexin 125mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free x QUANTITY IN LINE WITH SSP*</p>

Non-electronic prescription form:

Example	Endorsement Option
<p>Example 1: Prescription for Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution x 100ml</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor supplies Amoxicillin 125mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free x QUANTITY IN LINE WITH SSP*</p>	<p>SSP 043</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor endorses Amoxicillin 125mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free x QUANTITY IN LINE WITH SSP*</p>

<p>Example 2: Prescription for Phenoxyethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution x 100ml</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor supplies Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension x QUANTITY IN LINE WITH SSP*</p>	<p>SSP 043</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor endorses Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension x QUANTITY IN LINE WITH SSP*</p>
<p>Example 3: Prescription for Phenoxyethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution x 100ml</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor supplies Flucloxacillin 125mg/5ml oral solution sugar free x QUANTITY IN LINE WITH SSP*</p>	<p>SSP 043</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor endorses Flucloxacillin 125mg/5ml oral solution sugar free x QUANTITY IN LINE WITH SSP*</p>
<p>Example 4: Prescription for Phenoxyethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution x 100ml</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor supplies Cefalexin 125mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free x QUANTITY IN LINE WITH SSP*</p>	<p>SSP 043</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor endorses Cefalexin 125mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free x QUANTITY IN LINE WITH SSP*</p>

**** Total quantity supplied in accordance with this SSP is to be equivalent to the number of days treatment prescribed on the original prescription. The total quantity supplied may be different due to different dosing regimens for different antibiotics.***

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 043 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 043 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:

- Amoxicillin 125mg/5ml oral suspension
- Amoxicillin 125mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free
- Amoxicillin 250mg/5ml oral suspension
- Amoxicillin 250mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free
- Amoxicillin 250mg capsules
- Amoxicillin 500mg capsules
- Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension
- Clarithromycin 250mg/5ml oral suspension
- Clarithromycin 250mg tablets
- Clarithromycin 500mg tablets
- Flucloxacillin 125mg/5ml oral solution
- Flucloxacillin 250mg/5ml oral solution
- Flucloxacillin 125mg/5ml oral solution sugar free
- Flucloxacillin 250mg/5ml oral solution sugar free
- Flucloxacillin 250mg capsules
- Flucloxacillin 500mg capsules
- Cefalexin 125mg/5ml oral suspension
- Cefalexin 125mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free
- Cefalexin 250mg/5ml oral suspension
- Cefalexin 250mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free
- Cefalexin 250mg capsules
- Cefalexin 250mg tablets
- Cefalexin 500mg capsules
- Cefalexin 500mg tablets
- Co-amoxiclav 125mg/31mg/5ml oral suspension
- Co-amoxiclav 125mg/31mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free
- Co-amoxiclav 250mg/62mg/5ml oral suspension
- Co-amoxiclav 250mg/62mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free
- Co-amoxiclav 400mg/57mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free
- Co-amoxiclav 250mg/125mg tablets
- Co-amoxiclav 500mg/125mg tablets
- Erythromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension
- Erythromycin 250mg/5ml oral suspension
- Erythromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free
- Erythromycin 250mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free
- Erythromycin 250mg tablets
- Erythromycin 500mg tablets
- Erythromycin 250mg gastro-resistant 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 125mg/5ml oral solution are eligible to receive a substituted product under the terms of this SSP 043.

Does the SSP apply to private prescriptions?

Yes. The scope of this SSP 043 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 125mg/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.

What antibiotic would I supply as an alternative under this SSP?

For prescriptions that have a duration of treatment under 10 days, when choosing which antibiotic and/or formulation is to be supplied in accordance with this SSP, the pharmacist must consider the suitability for the patient. The order of preference of the antibiotic supplied should be as specified in the SSP and on availability and the dosing needs of the patient as set out in **Annex B**.

The broader spectrum antibiotics have an increased risks of side effects and antimicrobial resistance, so these should be only supplied when the alternatives are unavailable.

For prescriptions for longer than 10 days substituting one of erythromycin formulations is the preferred substitution as set out in **Annex C**. In the event erythromycin is unavailable in a suitable formulation/dosage, pharmacists should work down the list as specified in the SSP.

How do I determine the dose of an alternative antibiotic to be supplied?

When determining the dose of the alternative product to be supplied, the pharmacist should take into account the patient's age and/or body weight as set out in **Annex B**. If necessary, the pharmacist should confirm the patient's weight with their parent/carer and refer to their personal child health record (red book) where possible.

How would the pharmacists determine whether the tablets/capsules 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. Where the pharmacist considers that the patient is unable to accommodate the switch from liquid to tablet/capsule (i.e. the patient is unable to swallow tablets/capsules), and where stock is available, the pharmacist can assess if supplying the one of the oral solutions specified in the SSP is appropriate.

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

Where supply of an alternative antibiotic is an oral liquid, pharmacists must consider the quantity of the antibiotic to be supplied in accordance with the special container rules. Pharmacy contractors should note that the following products that can be substituted are a special container.

- Amoxicillin 125mg/5ml oral suspension
- Amoxicillin 125mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free
- Amoxicillin 250mg/5ml oral suspension
- Amoxicillin 250mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free
- Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension
- Clarithromycin 250mg/5ml oral suspension
- Flucloxacillin 125mg/5ml oral solution
- Flucloxacillin 250mg/5ml oral solution
- Flucloxacillin 125mg/5ml oral solution sugar free
- Flucloxacillin 250mg/5ml oral solution sugar free
- Cefalexin 125mg/5ml oral suspension
- Cefalexin 125mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free
- Cefalexin 250mg/5ml oral suspension
- Cefalexin 250mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free
- Co-amoxiclav 125mg/31mg/5ml oral suspension
- Co-amoxiclav 125mg/31mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free
- Co-amoxiclav 250mg/62mg/5ml oral suspension
- Co-amoxiclav 250mg/62mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free
- Co-amoxiclav 400mg/57mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free
- Erythromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension
- Erythromycin 250mg/5ml oral suspension
- Erythromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free

- Erythromycin 250mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free

Are there any considerations around storage and reconstitution of liquid antibiotics?

The pharmacist should consider the expiry date of the alternative antibiotic where an oral liquid is supplied. If the patient requires more than one bottle to fulfil the duration of treatment prescribed, then the pharmacist must counsel the patient with regards to reconstitution and storage.

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

If the pharmacist thinks that an alternative product, other than those listed within the SSP 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 043 only applies to prescriptions for Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution.

Annex A- Standard dosing of phenoxymethylpenicillin by age range

Age range	Phenoxymethylpenicillin dose
1-11 months	62.5mg four times a day or 125mg twice a day.
1-5 years	125mg four times a day or 250mg twice a day.
6-11 years	250mg four times a day or 500mg twice a day.
12-17 years	500mg four times a day or 1000mg twice a day.
Adult	500mg four times a day or 1000mg twice a day.

Annex B- Alternative antibiotic products and dosing information

The total quantity to be supplied in accordance with this protocol is to be equivalent to the number of days treatment prescribed on the original prescription.

Alternative product	Age	Usual treatment dose	Available formulations	Interactions and side effects
Amoxicillin	1-11 months	125mg three times a day.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amoxicillin 125mg/5ml oral suspension Amoxicillin 125mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free Amoxicillin 250mg/5ml oral suspension Amoxicillin 250mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free Amoxicillin 250mg capsules Amoxicillin 500mg capsules 	Interactions Side effects
Amoxicillin	1-4 years	250mg three times a day		
Amoxicillin	5-17 years and adult	500mg three times a day.		
Clarithromycin	1 month- 11 years (body weight up to 8kg)	7.5mg/kg twice daily.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarithromycin 250mg tablets Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension Clarithromycin 250mg/5ml oral suspension Clarithromycin 500mg tablets 	Interactions Side effects
Clarithromycin	1 month- 11 years (body weight 8-11kg)	62.5mg twice daily.		
Clarithromycin	1 month- 11 years (body weight 12-19kg)	125mg twice daily.		
Clarithromycin	1 month- 11 years (body weight 20-29kg)	187.5mg twice daily.		
Clarithromycin	1 month- 11 years (body weight 30-39kg)	250mg twice daily.		
Clarithromycin	1 month- 11 years (body weight 40-49kg)	375mg twice daily.		

	weight 30-40kg)			
Clarithromycin	12-17 years and adult	250mg twice daily.		
Cefalexin	1-11 months	125 mg twice daily.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cefalexin 250mg capsules • Cefalexin 500mg capsules • Cefalexin 500mg tablets • Cefalexin 125mg/5ml oral suspension • Cefalexin 125mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free • Cefalexin 250mg/5ml oral suspension • Cefalexin 250mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free 	Interactions Side effects
Cefalexin	1-4 years	125 mg three times a day.		
Cefalexin	5-11 years	250 mg three times a day.		
Cefalexin	12-17 years	500 mg twice a day.		
Cefalexin	Adult	250 mg every 6 hours, OR 500 mg every 12 hours.		
Flucloxacillin	1 month - 1 year	62.5mg four times a day.		
Flucloxacillin	2-9 years	125mg four times a day.		
Flucloxacillin	10-17 years	250mg four times a day.		
Flucloxacillin	Adult	250mg four times a day.		
Co-amoxiclav	1-11 months	125mg/31mg per 5ml suspension - 0.25mL/kg three times a day.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-amoxiclav 125mg/31mg per 5ml oral suspension • Co-amoxiclav 125mg/31mg per 5ml oral suspension sugar free • Co-amoxiclav 250mg/62mg per 5ml oral suspension • Co-amoxiclav 250mg/62mg per 5ml oral suspension sugar free • Co-amoxiclav 400mg per 57mg per 5ml oral suspension sugar free • Co-amoxiclav 250mg/125mg tablets • Co-amoxiclav 500mg/125mg tablets 	Interactions Side effects
		2 – 23 months		
Co-amoxiclav	1-5 years	125mg/31mg per 5ml suspension - 0.25mL/kg three times a day.		
	2-6 years (body weight 13-21kg)	400mg/57mg per 5ml suspension- 2.5mL twice daily.		
Co-amoxiclav	6-11 years	250mg/62mg per 5ml suspension – 5mL three times a day.		
	7 – 12 years (body weight 22 – 40kg)	400mg/57mg per 5ml suspension- 5mL twice daily.		
Co-amoxiclav	12-17 years	250/125 mg tablet- 1 tablet every 8 hours.		

	12 – 17 years (body weight 41kg and above)	400mg/57mg per 5ml suspension- 10mL twice daily.		
Co-amoxiclav	Adult	250/125 mg tablet- 1 tablet every eight hours.		
		400mg/57mg per 5ml suspension- 10mL twice daily.		

Annex C - For patients receiving phenoxymethylpenicillin for long term prophylaxis offer erythromycin as per below:

The total quantity to be supplied in accordance with this protocol is to be equivalent to the number of days treatment prescribed on the original prescription.

Alternative product	Age	Dose	Available formulations	Interactions
Erythromycin	3 months up to 1 year	62.5mg twice a day.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erythromycin stearate 250mg tablets 	Interactions Side effects
Erythromycin	1 year up to 5 years	125mg twice a day.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erythromycin stearate 500mg tablets 	
Erythromycin	5 years and above	250mg twice a day.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erythromycin 250mg gastro-resistant tablets Erythromycin ethyl succinate 500mg tablets Erythromycin ethyl succinate 125mg/5ml oral suspension Erythromycin ethyl succinate 125mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free Erythromycin ethyl succinate 250mg/5ml oral suspension Erythromycin ethyl succinate 250mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free Erythromycin ethyl succinate 500mg/5ml oral suspension Erythromycin ethyl succinate 500mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free 	