

HRT pre-payment certificate – information for GP practices and community pharmacies



Background

The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) has confirmed that the hormone replacement therapy (HRT) prepayment certificate (PPC) will be available from April 2023 and cost £18.70 a year.

New pharmaceutical regulations take effect on 1 April 2023, to accompany the introduction of the HRT PPC. They are within the [National Health Service \(Amendments Relating to Pre-Payment Certificates, Hormone Replacement Therapy Treatments and Medicines Shortages\) Regulations 2023](#).

The HRT PPC is a new, limited scope, less expensive, prepayment certificate applicable only to HRT items listed in the drug tariff. As a consequence of its limited scope, a patient with an HRT PPC will continue to pay the prescription charge for any other (non-HRT) medicines (unless another exemption reason applies).

For people who **pay for their prescriptions**, where a HRT item and another medicine are prescribed on the same prescription, this presents a problem for people who have a HRT PPC because a prescription cannot be processed as both 'exempt' and 'paid' within the NHS prescription processing and pricing systems.

Ideas for pharmacies

- Explain to person because of the HRT PPC both HRT and other items cannot be issued from the same prescription and will require rewriting for the item not dispensed
- For prescriptions already in pharmacy ask the person which medicine they need more urgently
- For future HRT prescriptions, inform people of the option to sign up to electronic repeat dispensing (eRD).
- Collaborate with your local GP practices to help affected patients and identify candidates for their prescriptions to be converted to eRD.

Ideas for GP practices

- Carry out a search on SystmOne using the search found at: **Dorset SystmOne GPs > Medicines optimisation > Womens Health** to identify people prescribed HRT. NB the search excludes patients over the age of 60 as they are exempt from charges. If the patient already holds a full PPC, then no action is required.
- Contact the relevant patients by electronic means to link to HRT PPC information. Please note if the patient pays for several medicines, they may benefit from a full PPC covering all medicines rather than just the HRT PPC.
- Ensure that the HRT and any other repeat medications are **separate electronic prescription batches** to allow the dispensing pharmacy to submit separate prescriptions for the HRT (exempt) and for the other items (paid for).
- Convert all HRT prescriptions for people <60 years to eRD.
- Collaborate with local community pharmacies to implement a plan for managing prescription queries around the HRT PPC in the short term and minimise any frustration for healthcare professionals and patients.

Useful information and links

[Electronic repeat dispensing for prescribers](#) (NHS Digital)

[Wessex AHSN eRD support materials](#) (including information on producing and dispensing eRD prescriptions, a telephone call script to move patients to eRD)

[Electronic Repeat Dispensing Handbook](#) (Wessex AHSN)