

# Tear out and keep guide – November 2011



## How can I make the most of the Drug Tariff Preface?

The first section of every copy of the Drug Tariff is the Preface. This section contains valuable information relevant for both the edition it is in and the next. It lists additions, deletions and any other alterations to the Drug Tariff. These changes can have a significant effect on dispensing so it is important to check to see which pieces of information have most relevance for your pharmacy.

Below is a guide of what you should be looking out for when looking at the Preface; it has been split into the sub-sections found in the Preface itself.

### Advance Notice

The Preface begins with all the changes which have been planned for the following month's edition of the Drug Tariff. These will not come into effect until the first day of the following month, but they are useful to look at to get an idea of what is 'coming (or going) soon'. However, it is important to note that not all changes will be listed as not all future events can be known.

### This edition's changes

This follows all the "Advance Notice" changes. This part provides you with a quick summary of changes coming into effect for this month's prescriptions.

### Additions (for this month and next)

What to look out for:

#### *New Part VIII items*

- Which pack size(s) are going in? (not necessarily all available pack sizes, but these will be used to base reimbursement on)
- Which category will they be entering? (if Category C, which brand will their basic price be based on?)
- Are they special containers, calendar packs or items requiring reconstitution?

#### *New Part IX items*

- An appliance which was previously disallowed will now be reimbursed by NHS Prescription Services (as long as it's ordered as it appears in Part IX).
- Is there likely to be a sudden demand for this product in your area?
- Who supplies it? (you aren't required by your NHS contract to dispense appliances, but it is in your patients' interest to know where to source the item from)
- Which size(s) are going in? (not necessarily all available sizes of the product, but only the listed sizes will be allowed on NHS prescriptions)

### Deletions (for this month and next)

What to look out for:

#### *Part VIII removals*

- NB. A medicinal product being removed from Part VIII can still be dispensed if it is not in the blacklist (Part XVIII A of the Drug Tariff) but it will need to be endorsed with brand or manufacturer name and pack size in future.
- It is worth bearing in mind that a product may have been removed because it has been discontinued.

- Are all pack sizes being removed? (sometimes only one pack size is deleted, e.g. because that particular size has been discontinued)

#### *Part IX removals*

- All Part IX items which are to be deleted will carry a three-month notice of deletion before the removal from the Drug Tariff can take place.
- Take careful note of removals from Part IX because if you dispense a deleted product, your prescriptions will be returned as disallowed.
- Care must be taken to submit the prescription in the month that it was dispensed as if submitted after the product is removed from the Tariff, it will be disallowed.
- It is worth bearing in mind that a product may have been removed because it has been discontinued.

### Other changes (for this month and next)

What to look out for:

#### *Part VIII alterations*

- Are there any newly recognised special containers and calendar packs?
- Category changes will be listed here – how will this affect their basic prices? (if Category C entrant, which brand will their basic price be based on?)
- Often find the brands used to base a Category C item's basic price on are changed – this may be because a manufacturer has discontinued their brand.
- Products changing from Category C to Category A when a product comes off patent.

#### *Part IX alterations*

- Minor changes in product name will be listed here – take note of these because if a prescription for a product is not written (or endorsed) correctly, it will be returned as a disallowed item.
- When there is a more significant change in a product's name, prescribers will be given time to change their prescribing habits from using the old name to the new one with a "dual listing". This period of grace, when both the old and new name for a product will be passed for payment by NHS Prescription Services, normally lasts for 12 months.

### Extra things to bear in mind

Don't forget to look out for additions or deletions to Part II of the Drug Tariff; these relate to the list of "Drugs for which discount is not deducted".

Be aware of whether you are looking in the "Advance Notice" section or not so that you are certain of when these changes should be implemented from.

There will probably be other additions, deletions and alterations in the Preface that are not about Part VIII and Part IX items. These might not be directly relevant to the day-to-day running of your pharmacy, but they may help you to keep abreast of current NHS prescribing and NHS pharmacy services.

If you know of an item which has been discontinued and is still in the Drug Tariff, but there is no mention of a change in the Preface in the "Advance Notice" section, then please let the PSNC Information Team know: telephone 01296 432823 (or 0844 381 4180) or email [info@psnc.org.uk](mailto:info@psnc.org.uk)

