

March 2023

PSNC Briefing 008/23: FAQs to support DHSC guidance on the new HRT prescription prepayment certificate (HRT PPC)

Introduction

In February 2023, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) [announced](#) that patients in England will be able to access cheaper Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) for menopause through a new HRT prescription prepayment certificate (HRT PPC). From 1 April 2023, patients who are not already exempt from NHS prescription charges will be able to purchase an annual HRT PPC for the cost of two single prescription charges. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued guidance on the HRT PPC at <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hrt-ppc-guidance>.

The HRT PPC can be used against any listed HRT medicine licensed for the treatment of menopause. The list of eligible HRT medicines is shown in [Annex A](#) and will also be published in the April 2023 Drug Tariff. The HRT PPC will be available to purchase through the [NHS Business Services Authority](#) (NHSBSA) website or from selected pharmacies.

PSNC view on the HRT PPC

PSNC is supportive of the Government's decision to make HRT medicines more accessible to patients at reduced cost, but we consider the introduction of this new prepayment certificate (PPC) specifically for HRT medicines is **complex**, and in some circumstances, it will **not work well** with existing prescription processing and pricing systems currently used in England.

The implementation of this new type of PPC will introduce additional workload and financial risks to community pharmacy teams. It may also cause difficulties for patients with HRT PPCs, unless a HRT medicine is written on a separate prescription to other prescription items for which the patient pays a prescription charge. This is because pharmacies cannot process prescriptions that include both exempt (listed HRT medicines subject to the HRT PPC) and paid (non-HRT items subject to a prescription charge) (a mixed prescription).

We wrote to Ministers highlighting our concerns about this back in November 2022 and made representations direct to the Minister for Women and the DHSC asking for all HRT items to be free-of-charge (without a prescription charge) like contraceptives. A prescription that contains an item that is free of charge and a paid item can be processed by a pharmacy. We said this would be easier to implement and more cost-effective. However, Ministers decided to press ahead with the policy.

Regulations have been introduced to seek to overcome the issue of mixed prescriptions, and PSNC is in discussion with DHSC to ensure pharmacies are properly compensated for the time, effort and risks associated with the introduction of the HRT PPC, and in particular mixed prescriptions.

Regulations

A regulatory package, [the National Health Service \(Amendments Relating to Pre-Payment Certificates, Hormone Replacement Therapy Treatments and Medicines Shortages\) Regulations 2023](#), supports the introduction of the HRT PPC and was laid before Parliament on the 21 February 2023 coming into force on 1 April 2023. The package seeks to avoid such mixed prescriptions as follows:

- **First, mandating single item prescribing for Drug Tariff listed HRT medicines**, so that one listed HRT medicine is prescribed on one prescription, and other non-HRT items are prescribed on separate prescriptions, and
- **Second, allowing contractors to refuse to dispense 'mixed' prescriptions** – prescriptions for patients with an HRT PPC that contain both a listed HRT medicine and a non-HRT item – as well as allowing other options.

The change to the NHS (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013 allowing contractors to refuse to dispense a mixed prescription to a patient with an HRT PPC gives 3 options. Contractors **may** either:

1. **First**, refuse to dispense a 'mixed' prescription presented by a patient – refuse to dispense both the listed HRT medicine and the other non-HRT item – and ask the patient to return to the GP for two separate prescriptions, or
2. **Second**, either:
 - dispense the listed HRT medicine (the patient or the patient's representative signing to claim the HRT PPC exemption), or
 - dispense the other non-HRT item(s) with the prescription charge(s) paid, or
(This may be appropriate if the patient has an urgent clinical need for the listed HRT medicine or non-HRT item(s); the patient will need to obtain another prescription for any items not dispensed)
3. **Third**, dispense both the listed HRT medicine and the non-HRT item(s) – and complete an FP57 refund form for the listed HRT medicine (there is a charge and refund for the HRT medicines, so no money changes hands – see note below) and take a prescription charge for the non-HRT item(s).

The Department of Health and Social Care is advising pharmacies to refuse to dispense 'mixed' prescriptions to patients with an HRT PPC, unless the patient needs one or more of the prescription items urgently. This may be appropriate for pharmacy contractors due to the financial risks with processing 'mixed' prescriptions for patients with an HRT PPC.

Note: If the patient is in possession of a valid HRT PPC at the time of dispensing, then only charges for the non-HRT items should be collected and the FP57 form should be completed at the same time for the HRT medicines. This will avoid the need for the pharmacy to collect and refund charges for any HRT medicines supplied at the same dispensing episode. As the prescription is marked as 'Paid', the NHSBSA will deduct charges for all items (HRT and non-HRT) on the prescription and the pharmacy can re-claim the charges for the HRT medicines dispensed by declaring the number of FP57 forms submitted and total value of charges to reclaim via the end of month FP34C submission form on MYS.

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1. Changes to the pharmaceutical regulations

What key changes have been made to the Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services (PLPS) Regulations and related regulations?

The PLPS Regulations have been amended so that dispensing contractors will be able to, but not be required to, refuse to supply items on a 'mixed' prescription where a charge exemption is being claimed based on the HRT PPC and a charge must be paid for the non-HRT item(s).

Regulations related to GPs have been amended to mandate that a listed HRT medicine must be prescribed on a separate NHS prescription to other items – that *a prescriber must only order one prescription item on a prescription form or repeatable prescription that is used by the prescriber for ordering a listed HRT medicine*.

What are 'mixed' prescriptions?

'Mixed' prescriptions are those that contain an item from the DHSC list of HRT medicines and a non-HRT item.

What are the issues with 'mixed' prescriptions and why do prescribers need to issue separate prescriptions for listed HRT medicines?

NHSBSA and Patient Medical Record (PMR) systems are not designed to handle 'mixed' prescriptions, they are designed to handle paid (the patient pays a prescription charge) or (and this includes prescriptions subject to a PCC) exempt prescriptions. Free-of-charge items (contraceptives and STI treatment) are handled by zero-rating the medicines or prescriber endorsement and can be processed on paid prescriptions.

In some instances, a pharmacist may part-dispense or fully-dispense a 'mixed' prescription because a patient has an urgent need for either the HRT medicines or the non-HRT items, or both. If part-dispensed, the patient will then need to ask the prescriber to prescribe the item that was not dispensed on the 'mixed' prescription. If none of the items on a 'mixed' prescription are dispensed, the patient will need to ask the prescriber to issue separate prescriptions for HRT medicines and non-HRT items.

Risks for contractors dispensing or part dispensing 'mixed' prescriptions to a patient with an HRT PPC include deductions of a prescription charges from their remuneration where no charge was collected (which results in a financial loss to the pharmacy), or claiming an item as exempt where a prescription charge was collected (which results in an overpayment to the pharmacy and the additional work of dealing with NHS recovery of the overpayment, and the potential for serious allegations against the pharmacy).

What are my options when presented with a ‘mixed’ prescription that contains both a listed HRT medicine and non-HRT item by a patient with an HRT PPC?

The change to the NHS (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013 gives 3 options to contractors/pharmacists facing ‘mixed’ prescriptions presented by patients with an HRT PPC. They **may** either:

1. **First**, refuse to dispense a ‘mixed’ prescription issued to the patient – refuse to dispense both the listed HRT medicine and the other item – and ask the patient to return to the GP for two separate prescriptions.
2. **Second**, either:
 - dispense the listed HRT medicine (the patient or the patient’s representative signing to claim the HRT prescription exemption), or
 - dispense the other non-HRT item(s) with the prescription charge(s) paid.
(This may be appropriate if the patient has an urgent clinical need for the listed HRT medicine or non-HRT item(s), the patient will need to obtain another prescription for any items not dispensed)
3. **Third**, dispense both the listed HRT medicine and the non-HRT item(s) – and complete an FP57 refund form for the listed HRT medicine (there is a charge and refund for the HRT medicines, so no money changes hands – see note below) and a charge taken for the non-HRT item(s).

Can I refuse to dispense a ‘mixed’ prescription which contains medicines covered by the HRT PPC and other items that are chargeable?

Yes, but consider if any of the items prescribed are urgently needed by the patient.

Can I refuse to dispense prescriptions to patients who do not have an HRT PPC?

Generally, no. The changes to the regulations to refuse a ‘mixed’ prescription apply only to patients with an HRT PPC. If a patient does not have an HRT PPC and no other exemption applies, the patient should pay the prescription charge for the listed HRT medicine and any other item in the usual way (more than one charge may apply). The patient may request, or the pharmacy could offer to complete, an FP57 refund form so that the patient may later reclaim any prescription charges, after having later purchased an HRT PPC or standard PPC. An FP57 refund form must be completed at the time of supply/charge.

Am I in breach of the NHS Pharmacy Terms of Service if I refuse to dispense a ‘mixed’ prescription that contains a listed HRT medicine and other chargeable items to a patient with an HRT PPC?

No. This is one of the situations where a pharmacist may refuse to dispense a prescription, and this does not result in a breach of the NHS Pharmacy Terms of Service.

Can I refuse to dispense an HRT-only prescription?

No. You can refuse to dispense a ‘mixed’ prescription to a patient who has an HRT PPC and where the prescription includes both a listed HRT medicine and another non-HRT item.

2. HRT prepayment certificate (HRT PPC)

How much does an HRT PPC cost?

The Government has decided that the cost of an HRT PPC will be equivalent to two single prescription charges in England. From 1 April 2023, a **single prescription charge is £9.65 per item** and an **HRT PPC will cost £19.30**.

A standard **3-month PPC will cost £31.25** and a standard **12-month PPC will cost £111.60**.

How long is an HRT PPC valid for?

An HRT PPC is valid for 12 months from the start date and covers an unlimited number of listed HRT medicines.

Where can I find the most up to date list of HRT medicines covered by the HRT PPC?

The list of HRT medicines covered by the HRT PPC will be published in Part XVI of the NHS [Drug Tariff](#) from April 2023. The up-to-date HRT medicines list will also be available on the [HRT PPC application page](#) and the [NHSBSA help with health costs page](#). A provisional 'HRT medicines list' is included in [Annex A](#) of this FAQ briefing.

Can an HRT PPC be backdated?

Yes, the HRT PPC can be backdated by up to one month from the date of application (but not prior to 1 April 2023).

Where can patients purchase an HRT PPC from?

The quickest way for patients to buy an HRT PPC is online at www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hrt-ppc. It is optional for pharmacies to sell PPCs.

PSNC recommends that patients visit the [NHSBSA website](#) to identify and purchase the PPC that is most suited for their needs.

How will a patient using HRT know which PPC would be best for them?

A standard 3-month or 12-month PPC applies to all medicines prescribed on NHS prescriptions whereas an HRT PPC only applies to certain HRT medicines only.

With an HRT PPC, patients could save money if they pay more than two HRT prescription charges within 12 months. Patients who purchase an HRT PPC will continue to pay for any chargeable non-HRT items (i.e. prescribed items that do not appear on the Drug Tariff HRT list).

If a patient is also prescribed other chargeable items in addition to their HRT medicines, a standard 3-month PPC will benefit those who expect to have 4 or more items in 3 months whereas a 12 month-PPC will benefit those with 12 or more items a year.

For patients who choose not to purchase an HRT PPC, how many prescription charges would a non-exempt patient pay for the following HRT medicines?

Patients who choose not to purchase any PPC and who are not exempt from paying prescription charges for any other reason, will continue to pay applicable charges for all chargeable items. For example:

- **Bijuve 1mg/100mg capsules – 1 prescription charge** - Bijuve is a combined HRT preparation that contains estradiol and progesterone in the same capsule. Bijuve would attract only one prescription charge.
- **Elleste Duet 1mg tablets – 2 prescription charges** – Elleste Duet 1mg is a continuous sequential HRT preparation that contains a combination of two different tablets; one contains estradiol only and the other contains both estradiol and norethisterone. Elleste Duet would attract two prescription charges as it comes in a combination pack containing two different items.

What checks should a patient make before purchasing an HRT PPC?

It is the patient's responsibility to check that they have the right exemption or certificate in place when claiming free NHS prescriptions and signing the declaration on the prescription form.

Before purchasing an HRT PPC, patients are advised to check if:

- they are eligible for free NHS prescriptions using the eligibility checker: www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/check. For more information on see PSNC's page [Exemptions from the prescription charge](#)
- their medicine is covered by the HRT PPC. For a list of eligible HRT medication, visit: www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hrt-ppc-medicines
- a 3 or 12- month standard PPC is more suitable. A standard PPC covers all NHS prescriptions, not just HRT medicines. Visit: www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/ppc

The HRT PPC could save a patient money if:

- they pay for their NHS prescriptions
- do not already have a valid 3 or 12-month PPC that covers all their NHS prescriptions (including HRT) for a set price.
- require two or more items from the HRT medicines list in 12 months.

Am I required to ask patients for evidence of their HRT PPC if they declare exemption from paying prescription charges for HRT medicines for this reason?

Any time a patient makes a declaration that they are exempt from paying an NHS prescription charge, pharmacy staff must ask them to sign a declaration and produce evidence. Pharmacies must advise the person claiming exemption from prescription charges, where evidence is required but not provided, that the NHS undertakes checks to verify that such persons are eligible for free prescriptions. This is a legislative requirement of terms of service [The National Health Service \(Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services\) Regulations 2013 under paragraph 7](#).

What formats of the HRT PPC can be accepted as proof of exemption?

One purchased online, the HRT PPC can be printed, saved as PDF or patients can take a screenshot of the certificate and present this at the pharmacy. Patients can also request a hard copy of their HRT PPC which NHSBSA will send by post.

How should I process a prescription form for a listed HRT medicines for a patient who claims to have an HRT PPC but is unable to provide any proof of exemption from prescription charges when they present to collect their medicine?

Pharmacy staff need not refuse to dispense items on the basis that the patient does not provide evidence of their entitlement to free prescriptions. Where a patient is unable to provide proof of exemption the patient should mark the appropriate exemption box and pharmacy staff should mark the “Evidence not Seen” box on the back of the prescription with a cross. Alternatively, the patient can pay the applicable charges for the listed HRT items and request an FP57 form to claim a refund later.

Is the HRT PPC refundable?

The HRT PPC certificate is non-refundable, so patients must check this type of certificate is suitable for them before they purchase it. Patients can call 0300 330 2089 for help and support.

Can pharmacies sell HRT PPCs via MYS?

From 1 April 2023, NHSBSA will have functionality on the Manage Your Service (MYS) portal to allow pharmacies to sell HRT PPCs through MYS. NHSBSA will also be looking to include standard on the MYS portal in the near future. It is **optional** for pharmacies to sell any PPCs in the pharmacy.

Where possible, PSNC recommends that patients are signposted to NHSBSA website to purchase a PPC that is most suited for their needs.

- Patients can purchase an HRT PPC online at www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hrt-ppc
- A standard (3 or 12-month) PPC can be purchased from www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/help-nhs-prescription-costs/nhs-prescription-prepayment-certificate-ppc

3. Scope of the HRT prepayment certificate

Which medicines are covered by the new HRT PPC?

To be included in the HRT medicines list DHSC has confirmed that the medicine must be Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) containing oestrogen and / or progestogen and must be licensed for treatment of menopause in the UK.

The April 2023 Drug Tariff defines HRT as follows: *“HRT replaces the hormones that a woman's body no longer produces because of the menopause. The 2 main hormones used in HRT are oestrogen and progestogen. HRT involves either taking both of these hormones (combined HRT) or just taking oestrogen (oestrogen-only HRT). Oestrogen-only HRT is usually only recommended if you have had your womb removed during a hysterectomy.”*

Where can I find the most up to date list of HRT medicines covered by the HRT PPC?

The list of HRT medicines covered by the HRT PPC will be published in Part XVI of the NHS [Drug Tariff](#) from April 2023. The up-to-date HRT medicines list is available on the [HRT PPC application page](#) and the [NHSBSA help with health costs page](#). A provisional ‘HRT medicines list’ is included in [Annex A](#) of this FAQ briefing.

Who was involved in the development of the HRT medicines list?

The HRT medicines list has been compiled following consultation with the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), NHSBSA and the NHS England Menopause Clinical Reference Group.

Which products, used to manage the symptoms of the menopause, are not included in the HRT medicines list?

Examples of products that are **NOT** covered by the HRT PPC include Black Cohosh, Citalopram, Clonidine, Duloxetine, Escitalopram, Evening Primrose Oil, Gabapentin, Norethisterone, Pregabalin, Sertraline, Testosterone and Venlafaxine. Please note this is not an exhaustive list of items not covered by the HRT PPC about which patients may ask.

Is this list of medicines covered by the HRT PPC subject to change?

Yes. The list will be updated as new HRT medicines licensed for the treatment of menopause become available in the UK or as existing HRT medicines are discontinued from the UK market. If a product that meets the criteria is missing from the HRT medicines list please contact dhsc.publicenquiries@dhsc.gov.uk.

Can a patient purchase an HRT PPC if they are prescribed a listed HRT medicine for an indication other than for the treatment of menopause?

HRT may be prescribed for indications other than the symptoms of menopause. The HRT PPC is valid for any listed HRT medicines, regardless of the patient's clinical indication or gender.

Am I required to check that the patient is using a listed HRT medicine for the treatment of menopause?

No. The HRT PPC will be valid for any product on the HRT medicines list, whatever the clinical reason for the prescription.

Is an HRT PPC helpful for patients prescribed Mirena 20micrograms/24hours intrauterine device?

In addition to being used as HRT, Mirena can also be used as a contraceptive. Prescription charges are **NOT** payable for any contraceptive products listed in Part XVI Clause 10 of the Drug Tariff. As Mirena is included in this list, all prescriptions for Mirena are automatically identified and processed as free-of-charge (FOC) items by the NHSBSA. Therefore, patients prescribed Mirena may benefit from an HRT PPC if they are likely to pay more than two prescription charges in a year for any other listed HRT medicines.

Is there a limit on the number of listed HRT medicines a patient can obtain each year with an HRT PPC?

The annual HRT PPC covers an unlimited number of listed HRT medicines **licensed to treat the symptoms of menopause**.

Can a patient use the HRT PPC to claim exemption from charges for listed HRT medicines ordered on prescriptions issued prior to April 2023 but not dispensed until after April 2023?

Yes, the exemption applies from the date of dispensing.

How should I process a HRT-only prescription for a patient that intends to purchase an HRT PPC?

If patient is not exempt from prescription charges and does not have a valid HRT PPC at the point of dispensing, the patient would pay the applicable number of charges for HRT medicines and the prescription would be marked as 'Paid'. For example, for Femoston 2/10mg tablets the patient would pay two prescription charges. The patient should also be given a FP57 form at the time of dispensing. Once the patient has obtained their proof of exemption for e.g. an HRT PPC, this can be presented at a pharmacy alongside the FP57 form within 3 months and a refund for the charges paid can then be issued to the patient.

How do I declare the number of HRT PPCs sold?

Contractors opting to sell the HRT PPC do not need to declare the number of HRT PPCs sold on the FP34C. The NHSBSA obtain the figures for the number of HRT PPCs sold and total value of the sales from your MYS portal activity.

You do not need to send any payment received for HRT PPC's sold to the NHSBSA. The NHSBSA will deduct the monthly total value from your monthly payment based on the HRT PPCs sold via MYS.

4. Changes to NHS stationery

The suite of FP10 prescription forms and the FP57 receipt and refund claim form are being updated to reflect the change.

A. FP10 and tokens

What changes have been made to paper FP10s and tokens?

To support the introduction of the HRT PPC, FP10 forms and EPS tokens have been updated to include a new exemption category '**W**' for "**HRT only prescription prepayment certificate**".

In addition, the patient information page has been updated providing information on reporting suspected side effects to medicines and medical device incidents to the MHRA Yellow Card scheme: <https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/> The image below shows reverse of the existing and revised FP10 forms.

Current version FP10SS1219

If you paid	Enter amount paid	£	□ □ □ . □ □
If you didn't pay Mark a line in one box and sign below			
<input type="checkbox"/> A Is 60 years of age or over or is under 16 years of age (unless your date of birth is printed on the form) <input type="checkbox"/> B Is 16, 17 or 18 and in full time education <input type="checkbox"/> D Maternity exemption certificate <input type="checkbox"/> E Medical exemption certificate <input type="checkbox"/> F Prescription prepayment certificate <input type="checkbox"/> G Prescription exemption certificate issued by Ministry of Defence <input type="checkbox"/> H HC2 (full help) certificate <input type="checkbox"/> I Income Support or Income-related Employment and Support Allowance <input type="checkbox"/> K Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance <input type="checkbox"/> M Tax Credit exemption certificate <input type="checkbox"/> S Pension Credit Guarantee Credit (including partners) <input type="checkbox"/> U Universal Credit and meets the criteria. <i>Find out more at www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/UC</i>			
<p>Read the declaration and sign the form The information I have given is correct and complete and I confirm proper entitlement to exemption.</p> <p>I understand that if I falsely claim, I may be issued a Penalty Charge Notice, and I may have to pay up to £100 as well as my prescription charge(s).</p> <p>I understand the NHS Business Services Authority may use and share my information within the NHS and with relevant Government bodies to check for fraud and mistakes. Find out more at: www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/yourinformation</p>			
Signature	Date	On behalf of patient	<input type="checkbox"/>
SIGNATURE OF COLLECTOR OF SCHEDULE 2 & 3 CDS		PHARMACY USE ONLY EVIDENCE NOT SEEN <input type="checkbox"/>	

New version FP10SS0522

If you paid	Enter amount paid	£	□ □ □ . □ □
If you didn't pay Mark a line in one box and sign below			
<input type="checkbox"/> A Is 60 years of age or over or is under 16 years of age (unless your date of birth is printed on the form) <input type="checkbox"/> B Is 16, 17 or 18 and in full time education <input type="checkbox"/> D Maternity exemption certificate <input type="checkbox"/> E Medical exemption certificate <input type="checkbox"/> F Prescription prepayment certificate <input type="checkbox"/> W HRT only prescription prepayment certificate <input type="checkbox"/> G Ministry of Defence prescription exemption certificate <input type="checkbox"/> H HC2 (full help) certificate <input type="checkbox"/> I Income Support or Income-related Employment and Support Allowance <input type="checkbox"/> K Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance <input type="checkbox"/> M Tax Credit exemption certificate <input type="checkbox"/> S Pension Credit Guarantee Credit (including partners) <input type="checkbox"/> U Universal Credit and meets the criteria. <i>Find out more at www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/UC</i>			
<p>Read the declaration and sign the form The information I have given is correct and complete and I confirm proper entitlement to exemption.</p> <p>I understand that if I falsely claim, I may be issued a Penalty Charge Notice, and I may have to pay up to £100 as well as my prescription charge(s).</p> <p>I understand the NHS Business Services Authority may use and share my information within the NHS and with relevant Government bodies to check for fraud and mistakes. Find out more at: www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/yourinformation</p>			
Signature	Date	On behalf of patient	<input type="checkbox"/>
SIGNATURE OF COLLECTOR OF SCHEDULE 2 & 3 CDS		PHARMACY USE ONLY EVIDENCE NOT SEEN <input type="checkbox"/>	

What is the new form version identifier for FP10s?

The new versions of FP10 forms will have the 0522 identifier for e.g. FP10SS0522 or FP10DT0522. The existing form version is FP10SS1219. The only prescriptions which are not changing are FP10PCDNC and FP10PCDSS.

When will the updated suite of FP10s be put into circulation?

Revised versions of FP10 prescription forms and tokens versions will be put into circulation from the beginning of April 2023.

Can I continue to accept the older versions of FP10 forms or tokens for dispensing?

Yes. Prescribers and dispensers are encouraged to continue to use the old forms until stocks run out. As the old form versions do not have the HRT PPC exemption reason, a temporary workaround has been put in place for patients who hold a valid HRT PPC to tick box 'F' for the standard "**Prescription prepayment certificate**" instead. This workaround **MUST** only be used for prescriptions containing ONLY items from the HRT medicines list. Procedures will be in place at NHSBSA to prevent patients using this workaround from receiving penalty charges unnecessarily.

Who is responsible for making the correct exemption declaration on reverse of the FP10 form or token?

It is the patient's responsibility to check that they have the right exemption or certificate in place when claiming free NHS prescriptions and signing the declaration on the prescription form.

Will NHSBSA be able to process both old and new form versions?

The NHSBSA will process both old and new versions of the FP10 form during the transition period. Patients with a valid HRT PPC should mark box '**W**' for "**HRT only** **prescription prepayment certificate**" on the new version of the FP10 prescription form. If the FP10 prescription form does not have a box for HRT PPC, patients should tick box 'F' for the standard "**Prescription prepayment certificate**" instead. This workaround **MUST** only be used for prescriptions containing ONLY items from the HRT medicines list. Procedures will be in place at NHSBSA to prevent patients using this workaround from receiving penalty charges unnecessarily.

Where can I obtain the updated dispensing tokens from?

Once older versions of dispensing tokens have been used up, pharmacy teams should obtain updated dispensing tokens directly from Primary Care Support England (PCSE) via the [pharmacy stationery online ordering portal](#).

B. FP57 receipt and refund form

What is the new form version identifier for FP57 receipt and refund form?

The new versions of FP57 forms will have the 0423 identifier i.e. FP570423. The existing form version is FP571008.

When will the new FP57 forms be put into circulation?

The DHSC has confirmed that the new FP57 form will be available soon. The printing of new FP57 forms will commence after the new versions of FP10's and EPS tokens are printed.

Can I continue to issue the older versions of the FP57 receipt and refund claim forms?

There will be a period of transition where pharmacies can continue issue the older versions of the FP57s forms until stocks run out.

Where can I obtain the new FP57 forms from?

Updated FP57s can be obtained directly from Primary Care Support England (PCSE) via the pharmacy [PCSE Online supplies ordering portal](#).

What changes have been made to the FP57 forms?

The FP57 has been updated to allow pharmacists to record the number of charges paid for items on the HRT medicines list separately from other prescription items, and to address some outstanding required amendments e.g. Universal Credit and naming of the war pension exemption

The following notable changes have been made to the FP57 receipt and refund claim forms:

- Different parts of the FP57 form will be numbered instead of alphabetical. For example, Part A, B, C, D, E and F of the current FP57 form will be replaced with Part 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 respectively.
- The new FP57 now includes an additional row in Part 1 in which to record the charges collected for listed HRT medicines separately from any other charges collected for items not on the HRT medicines list.
- Part 4 (previously Part D) had been updated to include details of the issuer (the Ministry of Defence) of the war pension exemption.
- Part 5 (previously Part E) has been updated to align more closely with the letters used on the FP10 prescription form/token.
- Part 5 (previously Part E) now includes a new exemption box 'W', to enable patients to select when claiming a refund for listed HRT medicines.
- Part 5 (previously Part E) now includes exemption box 'U', to enable patients to claim a refund when included in an award of Universal Credit and meeting criteria.

Current FP571008

Part A Receipt as it appears on the prescription form		Title: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other Forename: _____ Address: _____		Dispenser's stamp
Prescription number Box 1 Box 2 Box 3 Box 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 Box 10, 11 or 12		Number of Charged items (in words)	Postcode:	Total amount paid
Signature _____ Date _____		Date prescription charge was paid		
Part D War Pensioners only <small>To be completed by the dispensing practitioner (or their staff) at the time of dispensing</small> <small>You must fully complete, stamp and date Part A. If you make a mistake in Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, do not alter the form. Use a new FP57 and destroy the incorrect one.</small> <small>Now send this form to the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency, Narrows, Blackpool, FY5 3WP</small>				
Part E Patient details to be completed by the patient or their representative <small>Tick the relevant box that applies to the patient on the date the charge was paid</small> <small>Refunding Pharmacy use only</small> <small>What evidence was seen?</small>				
<small>1 The patient was under 16 years of age.</small> <small>2 The patient was 16, 17 or 18 in full-time education.</small> <small>3 The patient was 50 years of age or over.</small> <small>4 The patient held a valid maternity exemption certificate.</small> <small>5 The patient held a valid medical exemption certificate.</small> <small>6 The patient held a valid prepayment prepayment certificate.</small> <small>7 The patient held a valid current charged item.</small> <small>8 The patient was entitled to, or named on, a valid NHS Tax Credit Exemption Certificate.</small> <small>9 The patient was included in an award of Income Support or Income-related Employment and Support Allowance.</small> <small>10 The patient was included in an award of Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance.</small> <small>11 The patient was included in an award of Pension Credit.</small> <small>12 Their date of birth or NI number.</small> <small>13 Their patient number as confirmed by a letter from NHS Business Services Authority - See Part C overleaf</small> <small>NHSBSA authorising stamp here.</small>				
Part F Declaration by the patient or their representative <small>I declare that I have properly completed the prescription above and to the best of my knowledge the information given on this form is correct and complete and I have read and understood the information given in the patient information leaflet on the prevention and detection of fraud and incorrectness. I consent to the disclosure of relevant information from this form and by the NHS Business Services Authority, the Department for Work and Pensions and Local Authorities.</small>				
<small>I am the patient, or I am the representative. Please tick as appropriate</small> <small>Please print in block capitals, if different from name on prescription</small> <small>Date: / / Stamp of refunding pharmacy</small> <small>Name: _____ Address: _____ Postcode: _____ Name of pharmacy member of staff: _____ Postcode: _____ Refunding pharmacy use only. Amount paid (as in Part A overleaf): _____ Date: _____ Signature: _____</small>				

Part C Guidance for patients who do not qualify under Part B

If boxes 1-12 or 13 overleaf don't apply, you may still be able to get a refund if, when the charge was paid, you were on an income-based benefit and savings below the relevant limit on the day you made the prescription. To get a refund, you will need to complete a HCT form (see Part 5, Step 2) and send it to a HCT provider or to HCTs on-line ordering system 0805 610 1112 to get one sent to you. The HCT form will give you information about current limits in your area.

To make a low income refund claim, complete claim form HCT, and on this form, tick Part 5, Step 12 and complete Part 5. Send both forms to NHS Business Services Authority, Sandyford House, Newgate Street, Tyne, NE2 1SB (a pre paid envelope is provided with the HCT). If you are entitled to a refund, they will return the form with a letter. Take the letter and form to a pharmacy to get the refund.

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FP571008 Receipt and Refund claim for NHS prescription charges

New FP570423

Part A Receipt as it appears on the prescription form		Title: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other Forename: _____ Address: _____ Postcode: _____		Dispenser's stamp
Part 1 Receipt and Refund claim for NHS prescription charges <small>To be completed by the dispensing practitioner (or their staff) on the date the charge was paid.</small> <small>This form should only be used in practice in England.</small> <small>Do not alter the form. If you make a mistake in Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, do not alter the form. Use a new FP57 and destroy the incorrect one.</small>				
Part 4 War Pensioners only <small>Tick the relevant box that applied to the patient on the date the charge was paid.</small> <small>Refunding Pharmacy use only</small> <small>What evidence was seen?</small>				
<small>A single FP57 can be completed for both HRT and non-HRT items. Complete all parts of section I to III for the listed HRT items and/or non-HRT items. Strike through any boxes not applicable.</small> <small>Alterations in this section cannot be accepted.</small>				
Part 5 Patient details to be completed by the patient or their representative <small>Tick the relevant box that applied to the patient on the date the charge was paid.</small> <small>What evidence was seen?</small>				
<small>A single FP57 can be completed for both HRT and non-HRT items. Complete all parts of section I to III for the listed HRT items and/or non-HRT items. Strike through any boxes not applicable.</small> <small>Alterations in this section cannot be accepted.</small>				
Part 6 Declaration by the patient or their representative <small>Please tick as appropriate</small> <small>I understand that the NHS Business Services Authority may use and share my information within the NHS and with relevant Government bodies to check for fraud and mistakes. Find out more at: www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/privacy</small> <small>Signature: _____ Date: / / Stamp of refunding pharmacy</small> <small>Please print in block capitals, if different from name on prescription</small> <small>Name: _____ Address: _____ Postcode: _____ Name of pharmacy member of staff: _____ Postcode: _____ Refunding pharmacy use only. Amount paid (as in Part 1 overleaf): _____ Date: _____ Signature: _____</small>				

Part 3 Guidance for patients who do not qualify under Part 2

You may be able to get a refund if, when the charge was paid, you were entitled to an HCT certificate for the day you made the prescription. To apply, tick box L5 in Part 5 and complete Part 6. You will also need to complete an HCT form.

You can order an HCT at [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/HCT](#) or by calling 0300 330 1343. It may also be available from your local Jobcentre Plus.

Send both forms to: NHS Low Income Scheme, NHS Business Services Authority, Bridge House, 152 Pilgrim Street, London, EC4V 0EE, NE1 6SN.

If you are entitled to a refund, they will return this form with a letter of authorisation. Take the letter and form to a pharmacy to get the refund.

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FP570423 Receipt and Refund claim for NHS prescription charges

Under what circumstances should I issue an FP57 form?

Pharmacists can issue the patient (or representative) with an FP57 form at the time the patient pays the applicable charges if:

- a patient (or representative) requests one for any reason
- the patient (or representative) is unsure whether they are entitled to free prescriptions; or
- the patient (or representative) has applied or will be applying for a prescription charge exemption certificate or prepayment certificate (3-month PPC, 12-month PPC or HRT PPC); or
- the patient (or representative) is waiting for a paper certificate to arrive at the time they need their items

Please note if a receipt is required by a carer or representative, for example to show that the charge was paid, a till receipt may be sufficient proof.

How long after issuing an FP57 form does a patient have to claim a refund?

Refund claims must be made within 3 months from the date the charge was paid and the FP57 was issued. If more than 3 months have elapsed between the time the charge was paid and the FP57 form is presented for payment, the charges cannot be refunded unless the patient has a form LIS04(P) from the NHSBSA.

Can a patient request an FP57 form in the days following that in which the prescription charge was paid?

An FP57 form should only be issued at the time the prescription charge is paid by the patient. The FP57 form cannot be issued at a later date.

Part XVI Clause 7.5 of the Drug Tariff states '*Only issue a FP57 Prescription Receipt and Refund claim form at the time the prescription charge is paid. If the patient or their representative is persistent in their request and they have grounds why they do not have a prescription refund and receipt, they should be advised to write to NHSBSA, Help with Health Costs, Bridge House, 152 Pilgrim Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 6SN or ring 0300 330 1343, to explain why they were unable to obtain an FP57. Their Review Section will examine the claim and will either send a payment directly to the patient or advise the patient why they do not qualify.*'

How do I complete an 'OLD' version of the FP57 form for a patient with an HRT PPC who has paid for their listed HRT item that was written on a 'mixed' prescription?

If a patient plans to claim a refund for an HRT item on the grounds that they held a valid HRT PPC that applied at the point of dispensing, or they were considering applying for a backdated HRT PPC and the new FP57 is not available the following steps should be followed:

- The patient would pay usual charges for all HRT and any non-HRT items and the prescription would be marked as 'Paid';
- An 'old' FP57 form must be completed on the date the charge was paid;
- The contractor or an authorised member of staff should complete **Part A** in full:
 - Enter patients name and address as it appears on the prescription form;
 - Stamp the 'Dispenser's stamp' box;
 - Complete all parts of section i to iii;

- Contractor or an authorised member of staff must annotate with 'Listed HRT' and initial the annotation to confirm the changes paid were for listed HRT items;
- A separate 'old' FP57 form should be issued for any non-HRT items.
- There must be no alterations to the amounts or the quantities in Part A (sections i, ii and iii). If a mistake is made, then start again with a new form and cross through the discarded form in such a way that it cannot be used and write, "CANCELLED" diagonally across it
- Once the patient obtains their HRT PPC, this can be presented at a pharmacy alongside the FP57 form within 3 months and a refund for the charges paid can then be issued to the patient
- The pharmacy providing the refund would complete the FP57 form and declare the total number of completed FP57 forms and total amount of charges refunded on the FP34C form via MYS.

Note: If the patient is in possession of a valid HRT PPC at the time of dispensing, then only charges for the non-HRT items should be collected and the FP57 form should be completed at the same time for the HRT medicines. This will avoid the need for the pharmacy to collect and refund charges for any HRT medicines supplied at the same dispensing episode. As the prescription is marked as 'Paid', the NHSBSA will deduct charges for all items (HRT and non-HRT) on the prescription and the pharmacy can re-claim the charges for the HRT medicines dispensed by declaring the number of FP57 forms submitted and total value of charges to reclaim via the end of month FP34C submission form on MYS

How do I complete the 'NEW' version of the FP57 form for a patient with an HRT PPC who has paid for their listed HRT item that was issued on a 'mixed' prescription?

If a patient plans to claim a refund for an HRT item on the grounds that they held a valid HRT PPC that applied at the point of dispensing, or they were considering applying for a backdated HRT PPC, the following steps should be followed when using the new FP57 form:

- The patient would pay usual charges for all HRT and any non-HRT items and the prescription would be marked as 'Paid'
- The new FP57 must be completed on the date the charge was paid
- The contractor or an authorised member of staff should complete **Part 1** in full:
 - Enter patient's name and address as it appears on the prescription form;
 - Stamp the 'Dispenser's stamp' box;
 - Complete all parts of section i to iii for the listed HRT medicines and/or non-HRT items;
 - Strike through any boxes not applicable i.e. if the patient is only paying for a listed HRT medicine strike through the line for 'Item(s) not on Drug Tariff HRT only PPC list'.
- There must be no alterations to the amounts or the quantities in Part 1 (sections i, ii and iii). If a mistake is made, then start again with a new form and cross through the discarded form in such a way that it cannot be used and write, "CANCELLED" diagonally across it
- Once the patient obtains their HRT PPC, this can be presented at a pharmacy alongside the FP57 form within 3 months and a refund for the charges paid can then be issued to the patient
- The pharmacy providing the refund would complete the FP57 form and declare the total number of completed FP57 forms and the total amount of charges refunded on the FP34C form via MYS

Note: If the patient is in possession of a valid HRT PPC at the time of dispensing, then only charges for the non-HRT items should be collected and the FP57 form should be completed at the same time for the HRT medicines. This will avoid the need for the pharmacy to collect and refund charges for any HRT medicines supplied at the same dispensing episode. As the prescription is marked as 'Paid', the NHSBSA will deduct charges for all items (HRT and non-HRT) on the prescription and the pharmacy can re-claim the charges for the HRT medicines dispensed by declaring the number of FP57 forms submitted and total value of charges to reclaim via the end of month FP34C submission form on MYS

the prescription and the pharmacy can re-claim the charges for the HRT medicines dispensed by declaring the number of FP57 forms submitted and total value of charges to reclaim via the end of month FP34C submission form on MYS

How do I declare the number and value of refunds issued to patients?

On the MYS FP34C declaration, you must tick to confirm if they are sending any F57 forms. Contractors will then be asked to declare the number of FP57 forms submitted and enter the total amount refunded. The completed FP57 forms must be placed at the top of your prescription bundle for submission to the NHSBSA alongside any EPS tokens for non-payment and paper Repeat Authorising (RA) forms.

5. Changes to prescribing and dispensing systems

Changes are being made to prescribing and dispensing systems to accommodate the introduction of the new HRT PPC.

What changes will be made to prescribing systems?

The Government has confirmed that a digital solution will be introduced as soon as possible to prescribing systems to automate the issuing of listed HRT medicines as single-item prescriptions. However, IT solutions won't be in place for prescribers to issue separate prescriptions from 1 April 2023. Until auto-separation of listed HRT medicines is achieved, prescribers will be required to manually issue prescriptions for all listed HRT medicines as single-item prescriptions (i.e. separate from all other prescription items, including other listed HRT medicines).

When will prescribing systems be updated to automatically issue separate prescriptions for listed HRT medicines?

As of March 2023, DHSC has not provided any clear indication on the timescales required to achieve auto-separation. When the HRT PPC proposals were first raised, PSNC warned the DHSC that changes to prescribing systems have been slow in the past and that all suppliers need plenty of advance notice to fit new IT development plans into their roadmaps. As suppliers have been given very short notice of the changes required to prescribing systems, PSNC is concerned that 'mixed' prescriptions may continue for some time.

PSNC will continue pressing DHSC on this to ensure that prescribing systems can be updated as soon as possible. Any progress on the work to achieve auto-separation of prescriptions for HRT listed medicines will be updated on the 'Prescribing systems' section of psnc.org.uk/supplierlist.

What changes will be made to PMR systems to accommodate the new HRT PPC exemption category?

Coding has been released to dispensing system suppliers to updating PMR systems with the new HRT PPC exemption category. In EPS, the new message code or Electronic Reimbursement Message (EREM) code '**0020**' for "**HRT only Prescription pre-payment certificate**", will be available for dispensers to select before an EPS claim is submitted for payment for prescriptions with HRT items only dispensed to patients with a valid HRT PPC. See [Annex B - DHSC diagram illustrating the EPS dispensing codes for HRT PPC](#)

Over time, some PMR systems may choose to introduce logic to support dispensing processes for example by identifying listed HRT medicines on prescriptions to prompt the patient if they hold a valid HRT PPC. In the future some systems may even assist with calculating for the best PPC options for patients depending on what items they are being prescribed across their prescriptions. PMR suppliers may consider adding such development plans onto

their roadmaps based on the direct feedback suppliers receive from their customers (pharmacy teams) see: psnc.org.uk/reportIT.

When will my PMR system have the new HRT PPC exemption category?

DHSC has recommended development work on PMR systems be completed ahead of HRT PPC implementation date of 1 April 2023. Most suppliers are working to accommodate these timescales, and it is expected that majority of, if not all, suppliers will have the new HRT PPC exemption category available for selection on PMR systems from 1 April 2023. Where dispensing systems have not been updated a temporary workaround will be in place whereby letter 'F', EREM code '0007' for "Prescription prepayment certificate" should be selected.

Why are some suppliers making the change after 1 April 2023?

Suppliers received summary guidance from DHSC in February 2023 relating to the HRT PPC Drug Tariff change. Suppliers had [requested](#) that DHSC, and the NHS shares detailed guidance with them six months ahead of time in the future relating to future significant Drug Tariff changes that impact PMRs, so that there is adequate time for planning, development, testing and PMR guidance changes and so that other planned system development work has less interruption.

The level of supplier work required can vary depending on how the system is set-up. Some suppliers will be able to schedule for all their users to receive the new HRT PPC option on the same day (e.g. 1 April 2023). Other suppliers may include the new category code within a new release alongside other updates or as part of a phased rollout. Phased rollouts across the estate might mean that some pharmacy teams have visibility of the new category code before the 1 April 2023 go live date whereas others may receive the update after.

For some systems, this is an entry into a configuration file that can be done one day and be available on all their customers' PMR systems the next. For others, though, it is a new release and rollout can take time. System suppliers would therefore need to work backwards from the go-live date to ensure they are ready in time and their estate has the new exemption. Phased rollouts across the estate could mean that some contractors have the visibility and ability to use this exemption before the go live date

How do I process a prescription for a listed HRT item if my PMR system does not yet have the new HRT PPC exemption category?

Where dispensing systems have not been updated with the HRT PPC exemption category, a temporary workaround will be in place whereby the pre-existing exemption reason 'F' for "Prescription prepayment certificate" EREM code '0007' should be selected.

Will Real Time Exemption Checking (RTEC) automatically identify patients who hold a valid HRT PPC?

No. Due to the complexities of checking for exemption against specific medicines, RTEC will not be available for confirming whether a patient has a valid HRT PPC. Although DHSC states that changes to RTEC will be made as soon as possible, PSNC believes the RTEC system and technology would likely need to be rebuilt from the ground up for it to be able to assist with HRT PPC exemption handling. This is because the RTEC system is focussed on identifying an exemption at the patient and prescription form level rather than identifying an item-level exemption. PSNC continues its participation in the RTEC steering group which helps to set out future RTEC plans – along with NHSBSA and DHSC representatives. Updates regarding any RTEC developments can be viewed on PSNC's [RTEC webpage](#).

6. Processing EPS prescriptions for listed HRT medicines

Prescriptions for listed HRT medicine(s) only

The steps below will guide you through the process to follow when presented with an EPS prescription for a listed HRT medicine only:

- Check if the patient has a valid HRT PPC and that their prescribed HRT medicine(s) is covered by the HRT PPC
- If the patient **holds a valid HRT PPC**, advise the patient to sign and date the reverse of the EPS token and select exemption reason '**W**' for "**HRT only prescription prepayment certificate**" (if using an older version of EPS token advise the patient to select code '**F**' for "**Prescription prepayment certificate**")
- Dispensers should apply the "**HRT only prescription prepayment certificate**" option (**EPS category code '0020' equivalent to 'W' on paper prescriptions and tokens**) on the electronic message. If the new code '**W**' has not yet been configured into your PMR system, dispensers should select the pre-existing standard "**Prescription prepayment certificate**" option (**EPS category code '0007' equivalent to 'F' on paper prescriptions and tokens**)

The table below explains the different EPS category codes (including a workaround option) that can be selected when dispensing an electronic prescription containing ONLY items from the HRT medicines list

Processing EPS prescriptions for a listed HRT medicine only				
Prescription example	Is item on the HRT list?	Patient charge status	EPS code	Workaround if HRT PPC category code '0020' not yet configured into PMR systems
Prescribed Medication DISPENSING TOKEN Evorel Sequi patches 8 patches As directed		Exempt - HRT PPC reason	0020 (W): HRT only prescription prepayment certificate	0007 (F): Prescription prepayment certificate
		Exempt - other reason e.g. Medical exemption	0006 (E): Medical exemption certificate	0006 (E): Medical exemption certificate
		Chargeable	0001: Paid	0001: Paid

'Mixed' prescriptions with both listed HRT medicine(s) and non-HRT items

See below steps for processing of 'mixed' EPS prescriptions where there is an urgent need for either the listed HRT medicines or non-HRT items, or both. Also see:

[Annex C - DHSC diagram to illustrate the options available for handling of 'mixed' prescriptions](#)
[Annex D - DHSC flowchart to illustrate the handling of 'mixed' prescriptions](#)

a. 'Mixed' prescriptions – only listed HRT medicine(s) dispensed

The steps below will guide you through the process to follow if a patient with a valid HRT PPC has an urgent need for the listed HRT medicines(s) ordered on a 'mixed' prescription

- Check if patient has a valid HRT PPC and that their prescribed HRT medicine(s) is covered by the HRT PPC
- If the patient **holds a valid HRT PPC**, advise the patient to sign and date the reverse of the EPS token and select exemption reason “**HRT only prescription prepayment certificate**” (if using an older version of EPS token advise the patient to select code for “Prescription prepayment certificate”)
- Dispensers should apply the EPS option “**HRT only prescription prepayment certificate**” on the electronic message (EPS category code ‘**0020**’)
- If the “**HRT only prescription prepayment certificate**” option has not yet been configured into your PMR system, dispensers should select the pre-existing standard “**Prescription prepayment certificate**” option (EPS category code ‘**0007**’ equivalent to ‘**F**’ on paper prescriptions and tokens)
- The non-HRT items should be marked as ‘**Not Dispensed**’ by endorsing ‘**ND**’
- The patient should request the prescriber to re-issue a **separate prescription for the non-HRT items not dispensed**. Alternatively, the pharmacist can contact the prescriber on the patient’s behalf to obtain a new prescription for the non-HRT item(s) not dispensed.

The table below explains the different EPS category codes (including a workaround option) that can be selected when dispensing an electronic prescription for a patient with a ‘mixed’ prescription.

‘Mixed’ EPS prescription - only listed HRT medicine dispensed					
Prescription example		Is item on the HRT list?	Patient charge status	EPS code	Workaround if HRT PPC category code ‘0020’ not yet configured into PMR systems
Dispenser Endorsement	Prescribed Medication Evorel Sequi patches 8 patches As directed Naproxen 250mg tablets 56 tablets One tablet twice a day	DISPENSING TOKEN – Evorel Sequi – Naproxen	Exempt - HRT PPC reason	0020 (W): HRT <u>only</u> prescription prepayment certificate	0007 (F): Prescription prepayment certificate
			Exempt - other reason e.g. Medical exemption	0006 (E): Medical exemption certificate	0006 (E): Medical exemption certificate
			Paid	0001: Paid	0001: Paid

b. ‘Mixed’ prescriptions – only non-HRT medicine(s) dispensed

The steps below will guide you through the process to follow if a patient with a valid HRT PPC has an urgent need for the non-HRT items ordered on a ‘mixed’ prescription

- Provided the patient is not exempt from paying prescription charges for any other any reason, the patient should be asked to pay the required number of charges for the urgent non-HRT items dispensed
- Patient should be asked to mark the reverse of the EPS token with the correct number of charges paid for the non-HRT items dispensed. The patient should **NOT** select exemption reason ‘**W**’ for “**HRT only prescription prepayment certificate**”

- Dispensers should apply the '**Paid**' EPS category code '**0001**' on the electronic message
- All listed HRT medicines should be marked as '**Not Dispensed**' by endorsing '**ND**'
- The patient should request the prescriber to re-issue a **separate prescription for the listed HRT medicines not dispensed**. Alternatively, the pharmacist can contact the prescriber on the patient's behalf to obtain a new prescription for the listed HRT item(s) not dispensed

The table below explains the different EPS category codes (including a workaround option) that can be selected when dispensing an electronic prescription for a patient with a 'mixed' prescription where the HRT item is not dispensed.

'Mixed' EPS prescription - only non-HRT item dispensed					
Prescription example		Is item on the HRT list?	Patient charge status	EPS code	Workaround if HRT PPC category code '0020' not yet configured into PMR systems
Dispenser Endorsement ND	Prescribed Medication Evorel Sequi patches 8 patches As directed Naproxen 250mg tablets 56 tablets One tablet twice a day	DISPENSING TOKEN  – Evorel Sequi  – Naproxen	Exempt - HRT PPC reason	N/A	N/A
			Exempt - other reason e.g. Medical exemption certificate	0006 (E): Medical exemption certificate	<i>0006 (E): Medical exemption certificate</i>
			Paid	0001: Paid	<i>0001: Paid</i>

c. 'Mixed' prescriptions – both listed HRT medicine(s) and non-HRT items dispensed

The steps below will guide you through the process if a patient has urgent need for both HRT and non-HRT items ordered on a 'mixed' prescription and returning the prescription to the prescriber is not possible

- Provided the patient is not exempt from paying prescription charges for any other any reason, the patient should be asked to pay the required number of charges for all items dispensed (HRT and non-HRT items). For example, a prescription for Evorel Sequi patches and Naproxen 250mg tablets, the patient would pay a total of three charges (two charges for Evorel Sequi and one charge for Naproxen)
- Patient should be asked to mark the reverse of the EPS token with the correct number of charges paid for both HRT and non-HRT items dispensed. The patient should **NOT** select exemption reason '**W**' for "**HRT only** prescription prepayment certificate"
- Dispensers should apply the '**Paid**' EPS category code '**0001**' on the electronic message
- If a patient does not have a valid HRT PPC at the point of dispensing and is unsure if they intend to purchase one, an FP57 Receipt and Refund form should be provided so that the patient can later claim a refund (within 3 months) for any listed HRT medicines covered by their backdated HRT PPC (or standard PPC). See [FP57 receipt and refund form](#) section for further information

- *Note: If the patient is in possession of a valid HRT PPC at the time of dispensing, then only charges for the non-HRT items should be collected and the FP57 form should be completed at the same time for the HRT medicines. This will avoid the need for the pharmacy to collect and refund charges for any HRT medicines supplied at the same dispensing episode. As the prescription is marked as 'Paid', the NHSBSA will deduct charges for all items (HRT and non-HRT) on the prescription and the pharmacy can re-claim the charges for the HRT medicines dispensed by declaring the number of FP57 forms submitted and total value of charges to reclaim via the end of month FP34C submission form on MYS*

The table below explains the different EPS category codes that can be selected when dispensing an electronic prescription for a patient with a 'mixed' prescription where both listed HRT medicines and non-HRT items are dispensed

'Mixed' EPS prescription – both listed HRT medicine and non-HRT item dispensed					
Prescription example		Is item on the HRT list?	Patient charge status	EPS code	Workaround if HRT PPC category code '0020' not yet configured into PMR systems
Dispenser Endorsement	Prescribed Medication Evorel Sequi patches 8 patches As directed Naproxen 250mg tablets 56 tablets One tablet twice a day	DISPENSING TOKEN – Evorel Sequi – Naproxen	Exempt - HRT PPC reason	N/A	N/A
			Exempt - other reason e.g. Medical exemption certificate	0006 (E): Medical exemption certificate	0006 (E): Medical exemption certificate
			Paid	0001: Paid	0001: Paid

Processing EPS prescriptions for other treatments that are not included in HRT medicines list

The steps below will guide you through the process to follow when presented with an electronic prescription for an item prescribed for the treatment of the menopause which is not an HRT medicine listed in Part XVI of the Drug Tariff

- The HRT PPC only covers applicable medicines in the HRT medicines list published in Part XVI of the Drug Tariff. A prescription for any other item which is not a listed HRT medicine (non-HRT item) should continue to be processed in the usual manner i.e. the patient would pay the applicable number of prescription charges unless they are exempt for other reasons
- If the patient is exempt from paying prescription charges, the patient should select the correct exempt reason on the reverse of the EPS token. The patient should **NOT** select exemption reason "**HRT only prescription prepayment certificate**" (**EPS category code 0020**) as the non-HRT item is not covered by the HRT PPC.
- Dispensers should apply the relevant EPS exemption category code on the electronic message, for example, "**Medical exemption certificate**" option (**EPS category code '0006' equivalent to the code 'E' on paper prescriptions and tokens**)

- If the patient pays for the prescriptions, they should be asked to mark the reverse of the EPS token with the correct number of charges paid for the non-HRT medicines(s)
- Dispensers should apply the '**Paid**' EPS category **code '0001'** on the electronic message

The table below explains the different EPS category codes that can be selected when dispensing an electronic prescription for a non-listed medicine used for the treatment of menopause

EPS prescriptions for other menopausal treatments that not included in HRT medicines list											
Prescription example	Is item on the HRT list?	Patient charge status	EPS Code								
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 30%;">Prescribed Medication</th> <th style="width: 70%;">DISPENSING TOKEN</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Clonidine 25microgram tablets</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>112 tablets</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>As directed</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Prescribed Medication	DISPENSING TOKEN	Clonidine 25microgram tablets		112 tablets		As directed			Exempt - HRT PPC reason	N/A
Prescribed Medication	DISPENSING TOKEN										
Clonidine 25microgram tablets											
112 tablets											
As directed											
Exempt - other reason e.g. Medical exemption	0006 (E): Medical exemption certificate										
Chargeable	0001										

7. Processing FP10 paper prescriptions for listed HRT medicines

Listed HRT medicines only

The steps below will guide you through the process to follow when presented with an FP10 paper prescription for a listed HRT medicine only:

- Check if patient has a valid HRT PPC and that their prescribed HRT medicine(s) is covered by the HRT PPC
- If the patient **holds a valid HRT PPC**, advise the patient or their representative to select exemption reason '**W**' for "**HRT only prescription prepayment certificate**" on the reverse of the paper FP10 prescription form.
- If presented with an **older version** of an FP10 form, advise the patient to select exemption reason '**F**' for the standard "**Prescription prepayment certificate**"

The table below explains the different paid or exempt reasons for patients to select on the new or old FP10 form versions when dispensing a prescription for a listed HRT-only medicine to a patient

Processing FP10 paper prescriptions for a listed HRT medicine(s) only				
Prescription example	Is item on the HRT list?	Patient charge status	New FP10 version (version number 0522)	Old FP10 version (version number 1219) issued without new HRT PPC category
Evorel Sequi patches 8 patches As directed		Exempt - HRT PPC reason	Box W: HRT <u>only</u> prescription prepayment certificate	<i>Box F: Prescription prepayment certificate</i>
		Exempt - other reason e.g. Medical exemption	Box E: Medical exemption certificate	<i>Box E: Medical exemption certificate</i>
		Chargeable	Paid	<i>Paid</i>

'Mixed' prescriptions with both listed HRT medicine(s) and non-HRT items

Processing FP10 paper prescriptions for 'mixed' items where there is an urgent need for either the listed HRT medicines or non-HRT items, or both. Also see:

[Annex C - DHSC diagram to illustrate the options available for handling of 'mixed' prescriptions](#)

[Annex D - DHSC flowchart to illustrate the handling of 'mixed' prescriptions](#)

a. 'Mixed' prescriptions – only listed HRT medicine(s) dispensed

The steps below will guide you through the process to follow if a patient with a valid HRT PPC has an urgent need for the listed HRT medicines(s) ordered on a 'mixed' prescription

- Check if patient has a valid HRT PPC and that their prescribed HRT medicine(s) is covered by the HRT PPC
- Advise the patient to sign and date the reverse of the paper FP10 prescription form and tick exemption reason '**W**' for "**HRT only prescription prepayment certificate**". If presented with an

older version of an FP10 form, advise the patient to select exemption reason ‘F’ for the standard “Prescription prepayment certificate”

- The non-HRT items should be crossed through and marked as ‘Not Dispensed’ or ‘ND’ in the dispenser endorsement section
- The patient should request the prescriber to re-issue a **separate prescription for the non-HRT items not dispensed**. Alternatively, the pharmacist can contact the prescriber on the patient’s behalf to obtain a new prescription for the non-HRT item(s) not dispensed

The table below explains the different paid or exempt reasons for patients to select on the new or old FP10 form versions when only listed HRT medicines are dispensed on a ‘mixed’ prescription

‘Mixed’ FP10 paper prescription - only listed HRT medicine dispensed					
Prescription example		Is item on the HRT list?	Patient charge status	New FP10 version (version number 0522)	Old FP10 version (version number 1219) issued without new HRT PPC category
Dispenser Endorsement ND	Evorel Sequi patches 8 patches As directed	 	Exempt - HRT PPC reason	Box W: HRT only prescription prepayment certificate	Box F: Prescription prepayment certificate
	Naproxen 250mg tablets 56 tablets One tablet twice a day		Exempt - other reason e.g. Medical exemption	Box E: Medical exemption certificate	Box E: Medical exemption certificate
			Paid	Paid	Paid

b. ‘Mixed’ prescriptions – only non-HRT medicine(s) dispensed

The steps below will guide you through the process to follow if a patient with a valid HRT PPC has an urgent need for the non-HRT items ordered on a ‘mixed’ prescription

- Check if patient has a valid HRT PPC and that their prescribed HRT medicine(s) is covered by the HRT PPC.
- Provided the patient is not exempt from paying prescription charges for any other any reason, the patient should be asked to pay the required number of charges for the urgent non-HRT items dispensed
- The patient should be asked to sign and date the reverse of the FP10 paper prescription form and enter the correct number of **charges paid** for the urgent non-HRT items dispensed. The patient should **NOT** select exemption reason ‘W’ for “HRT only prescription prepayment certificate”
- The listed HRT medicines should be crossed through and marked as ‘Not Dispensed’ or ‘ND’ in the dispenser endorsement section
- The patient should request the prescriber to re-issue a **separate prescription for the listed HRT medicines not dispensed**. Alternatively, the pharmacist can contact the prescriber on the patient’s behalf to obtain a new prescription for the listed HRT item(s) not dispensed

The table below explains the different paid or exempt reasons for patients to select on the new or old FP10 form versions when only non-HRT items are dispensed on a 'mixed' prescription

'Mixed' FP10 paper prescription - only non-HRT item dispensed					
Prescription example		Is item on the HRT list?	Patient charge status	New FP10 version (version number 0522)	Old FP10 version (version number 1219) issued without new HRT PPC category
Dispenser Endorsement ND	Evorel Sequi patches 8 patches As directed Naproxen 250mg tablets 56 tablets One tablet twice a day	 – Evorel Sequi  – Naproxen	Exempt - HRT PPC reason	N/A	N/A
			Exempt - other reason e.g. Medical exemption	Box E: Medical exemption certificate	Box E: Medical exemption certificate
			Paid	Paid	Paid

c. 'Mixed' prescriptions – both listed HRT medicine(s) and non-HRT items dispensed

The steps below will guide you through the process to follow if a patient has urgent need for both HRT and non-HRT items ordered on a 'mixed' FP10 paper prescription and returning the prescription to the prescriber is not possible

- Provided the patient is not exempt from paying prescription charges for any other any reason, the patient should be asked to pay the required number of charges for all items dispensed (HRT and non-HRT items). For example, a prescription for Evorel Sequi patches and Naproxen 250mg tablets, the patient would pay a total of three charges (two charges for Evorel Sequi and one charge for Naproxen)
- The patient should be asked to sign and date the reverse of the FP10 paper prescription form and enter the correct number of charges paid for both HRT and non-HRT items dispensed. The patient should **NOT** select exemption reason '**W**' for "**HRT only** prescription prepayment certificate"
- If a patient does not have a valid HRT PPC at the point of dispensing and is unsure if they intend to purchase one, an FP57 Receipt and Refund form should be provided so that the patient can later claim a refund (within 3 months) for any listed HRT medicines covered by their backdated HRT PPC (or standard PPC). See [FP57 receipt and refund form](#) section for further information
- Note: If the patient is in possession of a valid HRT PPC at the time of dispensing, then only charges for the non-HRT items should be collected and the FP57 form should be completed at the same time for the HRT medicines. This will avoid the need for the pharmacy to collect and refund charges for any HRT medicines supplied at the same dispensing episode. As the prescription is marked as 'Paid', the NHSBSA will deduct charges for all items (HRT and non-HRT) on the prescription and the pharmacy can re-claim the charges for the HRT medicines dispensed by declaring the number of FP57 forms submitted and total value of charges to reclaim via the end of month FP34C submission form on MYS*

The table below explains the different paid or exempt reasons for patients to select on the new or old FP10 paper forms when both listed HRT medicines and non-HRT items are dispensed on a 'mixed' prescription

'Mixed' FP10 paper prescription – both listed HRT medicine and non-HRT item dispensed					
Prescription example		Is item on the HRT list?	Patient charge status	New FP10 version (version number 0522)	Old FP10 version (version number 1219) issued without new HRT PPC category
Dispenser Endorsement	Evorel Sequi patches 8 patches As directed Naproxen 250mg tablets 56 tablets One tablet twice a day	 – Evorel Sequi  – Naproxen	Exempt - HRT PPC reason	N/A	N/A
			Exempt - other reason e.g. Medical exemption	Box E: Medical exemption certificate	<i>Box E: Medical exemption certificate</i>
			Paid	Paid	<i>Paid</i>

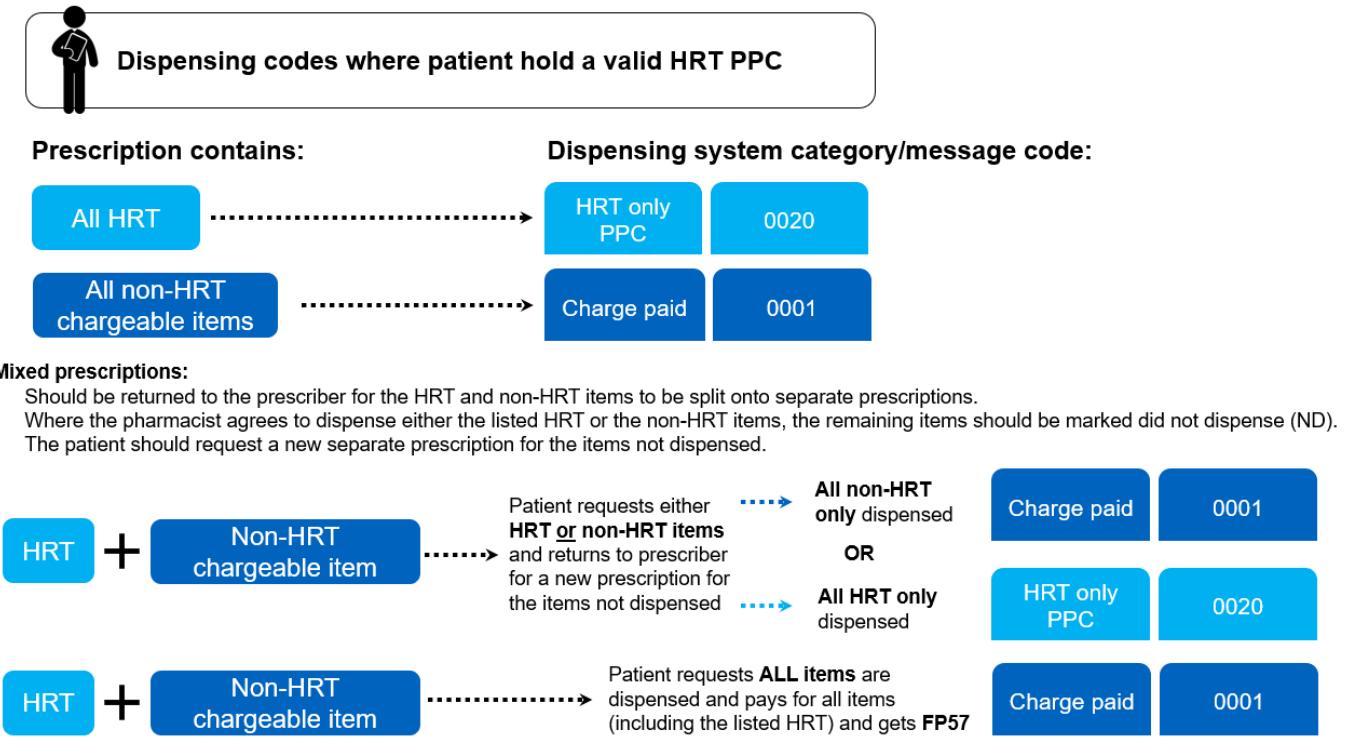
If you have any queries on this PSNC Briefing or require more information, please contact PSNC (info@psnc.org.uk) or call 0203 1220 810.

Annex A - HRT medicines list

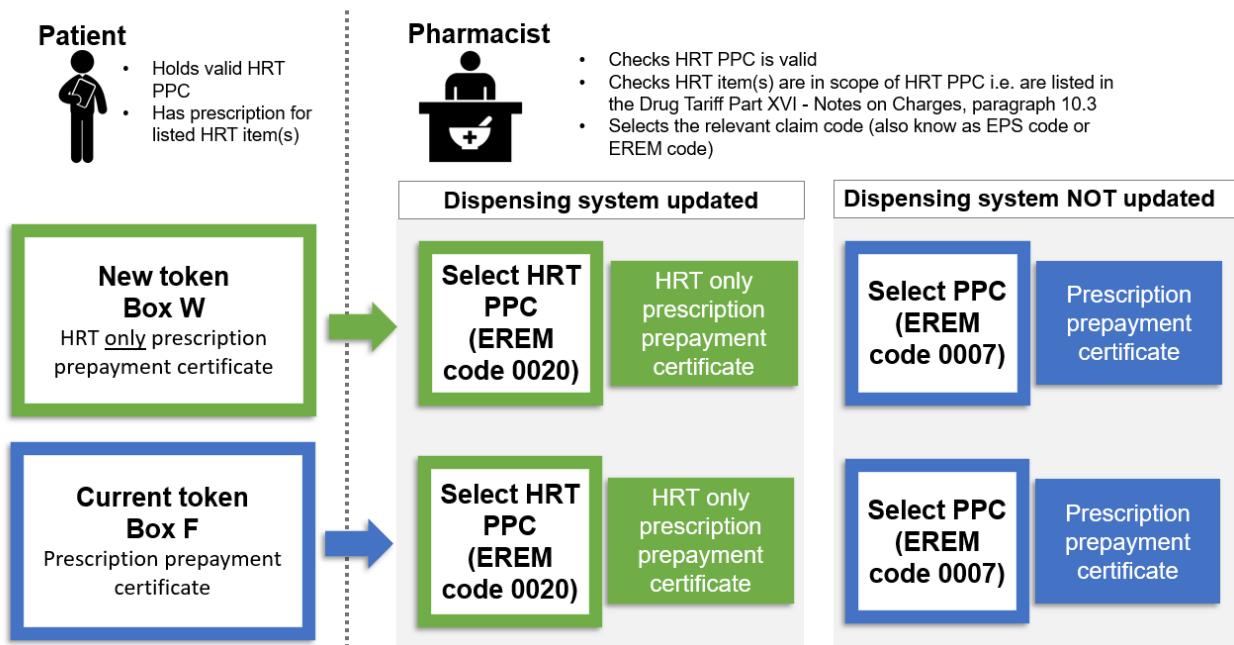
List of medicines covered by the HRT prescription prepayment certificate (HRT PPC) 'HRT medicines list'

Oral preparations	
Transdermal patch	
Estraderm MX 25, 50, 75 & 100 patches	Bedol 2mg tablets
Estradiol 25, 37.5 & 100micrograms/24hour transdermal patches	Blijuve (Blijuva) 1mg/100mg capsules
Estradiol 50micrograms/24hours/ Levonorgestrel 10micrograms/24hours transdermal patches	Climanor 5mg tablets
Estradiol 50micrograms/24hours/ Levonorgestrel 7micrograms/24hours transdermal patches	Clinorette tablets
Estradiol 50micrograms/24hours/ Norethisterone 170micrograms/24hours transdermal patches	Conjugated oestrogens 300microgram/Medroxyprogesterone 1.5mg modified-release tablet
Estradiol 50 & 75micrograms/24hours transdermal patches	Conjugated oestrogens 300microgram, 625microgram, 1.25mg tablets
Estradot 25, 37.5, 50 & 100micrograms/24hours patches	Elleste Duet 1mg & 2mg tablets
Evorol 25, 50, 75 & 100 patches	Elleste Duet Conti tablets
Evorol Conti patches	Elleste Solo 1mg & 2mg tablets
Evorol Sequi patches	Estradiol 1mg /Dydrogesterone 5mg tablets
Fem'seven 50, 75 & 100 patches	Estradiol 1mg / Norethisterone acetate 500microgram tablets
Famevean Conti patches	Estradiol 1mg / Progesterone 100mg capsules
Fem'seven Sequi 50micrograms/24hours Phase 1 patches	Estradiol 1mg & 2mg tablets
Fem'seven Sequi Phase 2 patches	Estradiol 1mg / Norethisterone acetate 1mg tablets
Proginnova TS 50 & 100micrograms/24hours transdermal patches	Estradiol 500micrograms /Dydrogesterone 2.5mg tablets
Transdermal gel or spray	Estradiol valerate 1mg / Medroxyprogesterone 2.5mg tablets
Oestrogen Pump-Pack 0.06%	Estradiol valerate 1mg & 2mg tablets
Sandrena 1mg gel sachets	Femoston 1/10mg & 2/10mg tablets
Sandrena 500microgram gel sachets	Femoston-conti 0.5mg/2.5mg & 1mg/5mg tablets
Lenzetto 1.53mg/dose transdermal spray	Indivina 1mg/2.5mg & 2mg/5mg tablets
Blisstil 50micrograms/g vaginal gel with applicator	Klofem tablets
Estril 50micrograms/g vaginal gel with applicator	Kliovance tablets
Vaginal gel	Livial 2.5mg tablets
Vaginal pessary / ring / tablets	Medroxyprogesterone 2.5mg & 5mg tablets
Vaginal pessary	Novofem tablets
Estradiol 10microgram pessaries	Premarin 0.3mg, 0.625mg & 1.25mg tablets
Estradiol 7.5micrograms/24hours vaginal delivery system	Premique Low Dose 0.3mg/1.5mg modified-release tablets
Estrin 7.5micrograms/24hours vaginal delivery system	Progesterone micronised 100mg capsules
Estril 30microgram pessaries	Progynova 1mg & 2mg tablets
Gina 10microgram vaginal tablets	Provera 2.5mg tablet
Invagin 0.03mg pessaries	Tibolone 2.5mg tablets
Utrogestan 200mg vaginal capsules with applicators	Tridestra tablets
Vagifem 10microgram vaginal tablets	Trisequents tablets
Vaginix 10microgram vaginal tablets	Utrogestan 100mg capsules
Intrauterine system	Zumenon 1mg & 2mg tablets
Mirena 20micrograms/24hours intrauterine device (Levonorgestrel 20micrograms/24hours intrauterine device) is a free-of-charge contraceptive that can also be used as the progestogenic opposition of oestrogen for HRT. Therefore, a patient should not buy an HRT PPC for this product alone	Vaginal cream
Products that may be used to manage symptoms of the menopause but NOT covered by the HRT ppc	
Black Cohosh, Citralopram, Clonidine, Duloxetine, Escitalopram, Evening Primrose Oil, Gabapentin, Norethisterone, Pregabalin, Sertaline, Testosterone and Venlafaxine – this list is not exhaustive	
PHARMACY	

Annex B - DHSC diagram to illustrate the EPS dispensing codes for HRT PPC

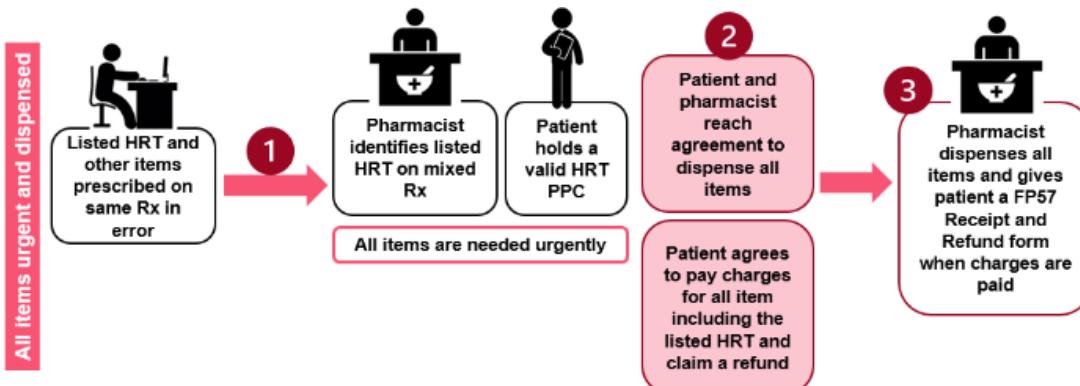
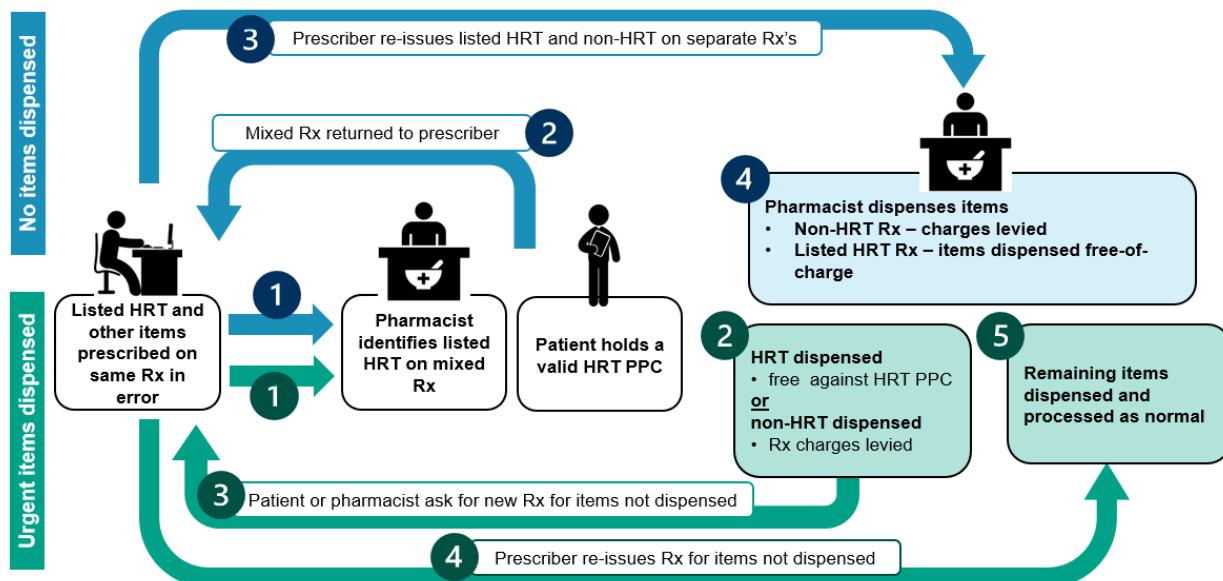


EPS Tokens - Hormone Replacement Therapy prescription prepayment certificate (HRT PPC)



Annex C - DHSC diagram to illustrate the options available for handling of 'mixed' prescriptions

Mixed prescriptions (non-HRT and listed HRT prescription items) when patient holds a valid HRT PPC



Notes:

- Rx = prescription
- HRT items = those listed in the Drug Tariff Part XVI - Notes on Charges, para 10 as being in the scope of the HRT PPC

Annex D - DHSC flowchart to illustrate the handling of 'mixed' prescriptions



Department
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Handling Mixed Prescriptions

