



**Business Services
Organisation**

Providing Support to Health and Social Care



Northern Ireland Prescription Code Book

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Preface

Product Descriptive Headers

Figure 1: Example new format extract

Code Book		Effective for prescriptions dispensed April 2017	
BSO Code	dm+d Pack Description	Code Number Of	Special Container ZD
13427	(DT) Alprostadil 10microgram powder and solvent for solution for injection vials 1 vial	vials	■
13428	(DT) Alprostadil 20microgram powder and solvent for solution for injection vials 1 vial	vials	■ ZD
13429	(DT) Alprostadil 40microgram powder and solvent for solution for injection vials 1 vial	vials	■ ZD
13426	Alprostadil 5microgram powder and solvent for solution for injection vials 1 vial	vials	
7754	Altacite Plus oral suspension (Peckforton Pharmaceuticals Ltd) 100 ml	mls	
2937	Altacite Plus oral suspension (Peckforton Pharmaceuticals Ltd) 500 ml	mls	
4613	Altargo 10mg/g ointment (GlaxoSmithKline UK Ltd) 5 gram	grams	■
18029	Altraplen Compact liquid (Any Flavour) 500 ml 4 x 125ml	mls	(4 x ■ 125)
18030	Altraplen Protein liquid (Any Flavour) 800 ml 4 x 200ml	mls	(4 x ■ 200)
642	(DT) Co-codamol 30mg/500mg tablets 100 tablet	tablets	
597	(DT) Co-codamol 30mg/500mg tablets 30 tablet	tablets	
2514	(DT) Lansoprazole 30mg gastro-resistant capsules 28 capsule	capsules	
1252	(DT) Salbutamol 100micrograms/dose inhaler CFC free 200 dose [BSO pack = 1]	BSO Unit Of Measure	■
	Code No. devices dispensed		

“BSO Code” column

This is the code to write in the numerator position* in the “Code numbers” margin of the prescription, beside the printed or handwritten description of the drug/appliance dispensed.

“dm+d Pack Description” column

Where the BSO pack is aligned with dm+d pack quantity, this field will convey the dm+d pack descriptor.

Where the BSO pack is NOT aligned with dm+d pack quantity, this field will contain the BSO pack description.

In the case of any Drug Tariff part 1 item, the text “(DT)” will prefix the descriptor.

“Code Number Of” column

Where the BSO pack is aligned with dm+d pack quantity, this column indicates the *unit of measure* you should use for calculating the dispensed quantity to write in the denominator position** in the “Code numbers” margin of the prescription, beside description of drug / appliance dispensed.

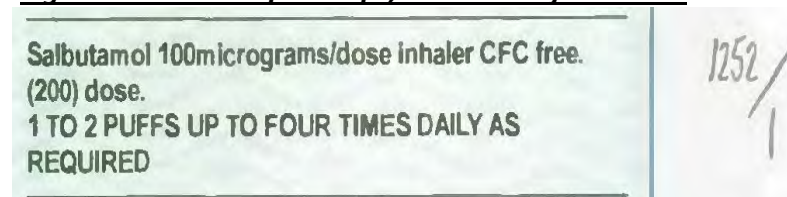
Where the BSO pack is NOT aligned with dm+d pack quantity, the “Code number of” column will state **BSO Unit Of Measure**, and you should then refer to the pack description for guidance on the denominator** calculation.

See example script below, referencing packs itemised in the code book extract (Figure 1):

Figure 2a: Example script, DMD aligned



Figure 2b: Example script, BSO Unit Of Measure



“Special Container” column

All special container packs will be denoted with a ■ symbol in the special container column and in these cases denominator** values should be calculated as multiples of the full pack size, according to the specified unit of measure (in the “Code number of” column).

Where a pack contains a special container sub-pack, the ■ symbol sits to the left of the sub-pack quantity, and in these cases denominator** values should be calculated as multiples of the sub-pack size, according to the specified unit of measure (in the “Code number of” column).

“ZD” column

Regardless of dm+d alignment, this column will state ZD where zero discount applies to the pack, and there will be no discount taken off this item.

Coding of Packs or Sub-packs where a Decimal Quantity can be dispensed

The BSO systems require the contractor to use whole numbers when coding dispensed quantities. Therefore, BSO have defined how decimal quantity packs should be coded in the following two ways:

1) Modified Unit of Measure:

Where possible, the next smallest unit of measure has been used instead of the dm+d unit of measure.

For example, see figure 3, a pack of 1.5 litres will read "mls" in the "Code number of" column of the code book, allowing the contractor to record on the script a dispensed quantity of 1500 for a full pack.

A note is shown beneath the item stating that the pack description differs from the unit of measure that the contractor must use.

Figure 3: Modified Unit Of Measure examples extract

Code Book		Effective for prescriptions dispensed April 2017		
BSO Code	dm+d Pack Description	Code Number Of	Special Container	ZD
6022	Fresubin 1500 Complete liquid (Fresenius Kabi Ltd) 1.5 litre Modified DMD Unit	mls	■	ZD
8022	Fresubin 1800 Complete liquid (Fresenius Kabi Ltd) 1.5 litre Modified DMD Unit	mls	■	ZD

2) Decimal Quantity Rounded:

Where it is not logical to refer to a pack or sub-pack quantity using a smaller unit of measure, the pack quantity is rounded up. The "Code number of" column will state "**BSO Unit Of Measure**", and you should then refer to the pack description for guidance on the denominator** calculation (see Figure 4: Worked examples extract).

Worked Examples

Figure 4: Worked examples extract

Code Book		Effective for prescriptions dispensed April 2017	HSC Business Services Organisation Providing Support to Health and Social Care	ZD
BSO Code	dm+d Pack Description	Code Number Of	Special Container	
6230	Juvela gluten free fresh white rolls (Hero UK Ltd) 425 gram 5 rolls	grams	■	
893	(DT) Ranitidine 150mg effervescent tablets 60 tablet	tablets	(4 x ■ 15)	
3448	DuoTrav 40micrograms/ml / 5mg/ml eye drops (Alcon Laboratories (UK) Ltd) 2.5 ml Decimal Quantity: code each pack as 3	BSO Unit Of Measure	■	
3450	DuoTrav 40micrograms/ml / 5mg/ml eye drops (Alcon Laboratories (UK) Ltd) 7.5 ml 3 x 2.5ml bottles SubPack Decimal Quantity: Code each subpack as 3	BSO Unit Of Measure	(3 x ■ 2.5)	
14206	(DT) Flumetasone 0.02% / Clioquinol 1% ear drops 7.5 ml Decimal Quantity: code each pack as 8	BSO Unit Of Measure	■	

Worked example 1:

Juvela gluten free fresh white rolls (hero UK Ltd) 425gram 5 rolls

The unit of measure is “grams” and the ■ symbol sits alone in the “Special Container” column, so denominator** values should be in multiples of 425 grams (see full descriptor for the number of grams in a full pack):

Juvela gluten free fresh white rolls (hero UK Ltd) 425gram 5 rolls
Pack
425g

Quantity Prescribed	Code Over
85g	425
255g	425
680g	850
935g	850

Worked example 2:***(DT) Ranitidine 150mg effervescent tablets 60 tablets.***

The unit of measure is “tablets” and the ■ symbol sits to the left of the sub-pack quantity of 15 in the “Special Container” column, so denominator** values should therefore be in multiples of 15 tablets:

(DT) Ranitidine 150mg effervescent Tablets	
Pack	Sub-pack
60	15

Quantity Prescribed	Code Over
10	15
15	15
30	30
40	45
60	60
80	75

Worked example 3:***(DT) Flumetasone 0.02% / Clioquinol 1% ear drops 7.5ml.***

The ■ symbol sits alone in the “Special Container” column and the unit of measure is “BSO Unit of Measure”, so you should then refer to the pack description which states that each pack should be coded as 8:

(DT) Flumetasone 0.02% / Clioquinol 1% ear drops 7.5ml	
Pack	Code each Pack
7.5ml	8

Quantity Prescribed	Code Over
7.5ml	8
15ml	16
22.5ml	24
37.5ml	40

Worked example 4:***DuoTrav 40micrograms/ ml/ 5mg/ml eye drops (Alcon Laboratories (UK) Ltd 7.5ml 3 x 2.5ml bottles***

The ■ symbol sits to the left of the sub-pack quantity of 2.5 in the “Special Container” column BUT the unit of measure is “BSO Unit of Measure”, so you should then refer to the pack description which states that each sub-pack should be coded as 3:

DuoTrav 40micrograms/ ml/ 5mg/ml eye drops (Alcon Laboratories (UK) Ltd 7.5ml 3 x 2.5ml bottles		
Pack	Sub-pack	Code each Sub-pack
7.5ml	2.5ml	3

Quantity Prescribed	Code Over
2.5ml	3
5ml	6
7.5ml	9
10ml	12
12.5ml	15
15ml	18