



Pharmaceutical Services, 2 Franklin Street, Belfast BT2 8DQ
Telephone No. 028 95 36 0333

To: All Community Pharmacists

27th May 2020

Dear colleague

Serious Shortage Protocols: Submission Information for Contractors

Northern Ireland implemented the first Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) on 20th May 2020 for fluoxetine 40mg capsules. This SSP has an expiry date of 20th July 2020.

The SSP is available to view on the BSO website, <http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/3063.htm> and all contractors should ensure that relevant staff are aware of the detail of this SSP.

The BSO website also contains detailed information on the wide aspects of operational matters in relation to the implementation of SSPs within the community pharmacy, including a Frequently Asked Questions document which summaries the key issues. All relevant members of the pharmacy team should be familiar with the detail within these documents. Funding was provided in 19/20 for all contractors to develop a Standard Operating Procedure for the implementation of future SSPs. The same level of funding will be provided in 20/21 to manage SSPs that are issued.

Prescription Endorsement and Submission

Reimbursement for any product supplied under an SSP will be as if the product had been dispensed against a prescription.

The prescription should be endorsed with the annotation “**Supplied in line with SSP [insert number of SSP]**” to indicate that the supply has been made in line with an SSP, and also any other usual endorsements as appropriate for the product. The number is located at the top of the SSP.



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In relation to the current SSP for fluoxetine 40mg, prescriptions should be endorsed with the annotation **“Supplied in line with SSP 06”**; **and the prescription coded for fluoxetine 20mg capsules.**

Contractors should submit the prescriptions that have an SSP endorsement at the top of the amended bundle, with the second submission, clearly separated from other prescriptions in the amended bundle.

The number of prescriptions submitted with SSP endorsement should be noted at the bottom of the second submission (HS30).