



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

To: All Community Pharmacists

3rd January 2023

Dear colleague

Serious Shortage Protocols: Submission Information for Contractors Northern Ireland: Reminder

There are a number of Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) currently actively in Northern Ireland, all of which relation to phenoxymethylpenicillin, various strengths and formulations. The SSPs are 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 these SSPs (currently active until 31st January 2023).

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.

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 **must** be endorsed on main body of the prescription 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. The prescription **must** then be coded for the product supplied in the main coding area of the prescription as normal for any dispensed product.

For example, in relation to SSP045, if phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution is not available, and the clinical decision is made in line with SSP045 to supply amoxicillin 250mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free, the prescription should be endorsed with "supplied in line with SSP 045" and the prescription coded for amoxicillin 250mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free, over the quantity supplied to the patient.



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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 HS30 accompanying your second submission.

If you have any queries, please contact Veranne Lynch veranne.lynch@hscni.net or Mark Nelson mark.nelson@hscni.net