

Special containers

The “special container” status is defined by the manufacturer of the drug when they make their initial submission for inclusion onto the dm+d.

Approximately 39% of all items in the pharmaceutical code book are defined as “special containers”. These items can be viewed by saving the Excel version of the code book from the BSO website to your computer*. Open the Excel document, click “File”, “Protect Workbook” and click on “unprotect” for the “Drug” sheet. Password is **bsodata**. Then if you apply a filter to column G, you can then search the document for the special container symbol (choose option “n”).

** this should be done as a one-off exercise and the **online code book** should always be utilised by contractors for routine coding of prescriptions as it is updated monthly.*

Payment rules for special containers

Special Containers

i. Single Pack

1. Where quantity less than special container, payment is based on special container.
2. Pack and half rule is applied for quantities greater than single special container.

ii. Multiple Packs

1. Where quantity less than special container, payment is based on special container.
2. Where quantity a multiple of single special container pack, payment is based on using that single special container pack.
3. Where quantity is a multiple of more than one special container pack, payment is based on using multiples of largest special container pack.
4. Pack and half rule is applied for quantities greater than single special container.

A worked example is provided below

Special Container Drug		
Only pack 50		
Prescribed Quantity on Prescription	Quantity to be coded and paid	Pack Used for Payment
14	50	50
28	50	50
56	50	50
84	100	50
112	100	50
156	150	50
180	200	50
224	200	50

Reconstitution of certain oral liquids

- a) This applies to specific antibacterial, antiviral or antifungal preparations, which are for oral administration and requires reconstitution from granules or powder.
- b) When the quantity reconstituted from an original pack or packs is unavoidably greater than the quantity ordered and it has not been possible for the contractor to use the remainder for or towards supplying against another prescription, payment will be calculated from the Basic Price of the preparation and will be based on the nearest pack or number of packs necessary to cover* the quantity ordered.

** The phrase "necessary to cover" is interpreted as the amount dispensed must allow the patient to complete the full course of medication prescribed.*

This follows the payment rules adopted by NHSBSA and further information is available on PSNC website at <https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-supply/dispensing-a-prescription/special-containers/>

Coding special containers

The preface to the codebook provides instruction on how claims for special container products should be endorsed.

<http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/pdf/CodeBookPreface.pdf>