

UPDATE Maximising Dispensing Income



Quantity supplied

At the recent *Maximising Dispensing Income* course you will have been told that there was no facility for pharmacists to change the quantity on a prescription to account for patients requesting less than the amount prescribed. This was based upon previous advice given by the PPD.

Further discussion with the PPD recently has contradicted this initial advice. Contractors can endorse a lesser quantity than that prescribed but should include these prescriptions in the red separator to ensure they are priced accordingly. If these prescriptions are scanned through the CIP process there is a danger that they might be priced for the quantity supplied rather than the quantity dispensed leading to contractors receiving reimbursement to which they are not entitled.

So what does this mean in practice.

If you receive a prescription for 105ml of amoxicillin suspension 125mg/5ml you will be reimbursed for two bottles of the suspension. If you supply one bottle and endorse it as such you will be paid for only one bottle.

If you receive a prescription for 200 paracetamol 500mg tablets but the patient asks for only 100 to be dispensed you can dispense 100 and endorse it appropriately to be paid appropriately.

Remember to separate these prescriptions into the red separator to be remunerated accurately. This is a requirement for calendar packs as you will be paid for the nearest number of packs or sub-packs unless it is included in the separator.

NCSO

The PSNC has discovered that NCSO endorsements are causing problems currently as contractors are failing to endorse everything that is required to be paid the higher price for the Part VIII item.

Endorsements must include NCSO, the supplier/manufacturer/brand, pack size, price (if required), initials and the date (this can be the date on the pharmacy stamp). Failure to include any of these details will lead the PPD to ignore the endorsement and the contractor will be reimbursed at Part VIII prices. This could result in a significant loss.

The price is not required if the product supplied already has a price listed in the NHS pricelist and in such cases any endorsement of a higher price will be ignored. If the product is obtained from a short-line wholesaler who is charging a price greater than the normal list price for a branded product, contractors would be advised to endorse the prescription with the supplier (i.e. the wholesaler) and not the manufacturer or brand, along with the price paid and other required details to get reimbursed appropriately.