

Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) for fluoxetine 10mg, 30mg and 40mg capsules – supporting guidance on endorsement, prescription charges, remuneration and reimbursement plus Q&A.

SSP for fluoxetine 10mg capsules

1) Endorsement

The contractor must endorse the prescription form, EPS token or Electronic Reimbursement Endorsement Message (EREM) as per Clause 9, Part II of the Drug Tariff and with the product name and the quantity which was supplied. If the contractor will choose to endorse the EPS token instead of the EREM, then they will need to indicate on the EREM either “ND” or “Not dispensed” and then proceed with the endorsement on the EPS token.

For the product name the following options will be accepted on the endorsement:

- a) Name of the product written in full - fluoxetine 10mg tablets or fluoxetine 20mg/5ml oral solution or fluoxetine 20mg/5ml oral solution SF.
- b) Abbreviation of the name – tabs (or tablets) or solution or solution SF. Contractors should note that abbreviations for these endorsements are allowed due to a limited number of characters in the endorsement field provided by some system suppliers. Contractors should also note that there should be no spaces in-between the wording for the endorsement options as outlined in the table below.

Example no.	<i>Endorsement options</i>	
	Option 1	Option 2
<p>Example 1: Prescription for fluoxetine 10mg capsules x 56</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor supplied fluoxetine 10mg tablets x 56</p>	NCSO,tabs x 56	NCSO,fluoxetine 10mg tablets x 56
<p>Example 2: Prescription for fluoxetine 10mg capsules x 28</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor supplied fluoxetine 20mg/5ml oral solution x 70ml</p>	NCSO,solution x 70ml	NCSO,fluoxetine 20mg/5ml oral solution x 70ml

<p>Example 3: Prescription for fluoxetine 10mg capsules x 28</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor supplied fluoxetine 20mg/5ml oral solution SF x 70ml</p>	<p>NCSO,solution SF x 70ml</p>	<p>NCSO,fluoxetine 20mg/5ml oral solution SF x 70ml</p>
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2) Prescription charges

Pharmacy contractors must take one prescription levy, i.e. regardless whether they supply the fluoxetine 10mg tablets or fluoxetine 20mg/5ml oral solution or fluoxetine 20mg/5ml oral solution SF, only one prescription charge will be applicable for patients who are not exempt from prescription charges.

3) Remuneration

Supply in accordance with the SSP (regardless of whether fluoxetine 10mg tablets or fluoxetine 20mg/5ml oral solution or fluoxetine 20mg/5ml oral solution SF is supplied) will result in the following fees being paid to the contractor:

- One Single Activity Fee (£1.27)
- One SSP fee (£5.35)

4) Reimbursement

The supplied product in accordance with this SSP will be reimbursed as if it was dispensed against a prescription, i.e. in this instance contractors will be reimbursed the Part VIII A reimbursement price for the fluoxetine 10mg tablets, fluoxetine 20mg/5ml oral solution and fluoxetine 20mg/5ml oral solution SF regardless of whether the branded or generic product was supplied to the patient. The reimbursement price will account for VAT payment.

Contractors should note that fluoxetine 20mg/5ml oral solution and fluoxetine 20mg/5ml oral solution SF is a special container, and therefore must be supplied in the quantity nearest to that ordered. Reimbursement will be based also on the quantity nearest to that ordered.

For example:

If the prescription is for fluoxetine 10mg capsules x 30, the contractor should supply 70ml (special container pack) of fluoxetine 20mg/5ml oral solution (the exact quantity would be 2.5ml x 30 days = 75ml, however, as explained above supply and reimbursement of special container products is based on the quantity nearest to that ordered).

SSP for fluoxetine 30mg capsules

1) Endorsement

The contractor must endorse the prescription form, EPS token or EREM as per Clause 9, Part II of the Drug Tariff and with the product name and the quantity which was supplied. If the contractor will choose to endorse the EPS token instead of the EREM, then they will need to indicate on the EREM either “ND” or “Not dispensed” and then proceed with the endorsement on the EPS token.

For the product name the following options will be accepted on the endorsement:

- a) Name of the product written in full - fluoxetine 10mg tablets plus fluoxetine 20mg capsules.
- b) Abbreviation of the name – tabs/caps (or tablets/capsules)

Contractors should note that abbreviations for these endorsements are allowed due to a limited number of characters in the endorsement field provided by some system suppliers. Contractors should also note that there should be no spaces in-between the wording for the endorsement options as outlined in the table below.

Example no.	<i>Endorsement options</i>	
	Option 1	Option 2
Example 1: Prescription for fluoxetine 30mg capsules x 28 Pharmacy contractor supplied fluoxetine 10mg tablets x 28 and fluoxetine 20mg capsules x 28	NCSO,tabs x 28/caps x 28	NCSO,fluoxetine 10mg tablets x 28/fluoxetine 20mg capsules x 28

2) Prescription charges

Although this SSP for 30mg provides 2 different items as the alternative, pharmacy contractors must take only one prescription levy for this SSP from patients who are not exempt from prescription charges.

3) Remuneration

Supply of fluoxetine 10mg tablets plus fluoxetine 20mg capsules in accordance with the SSP will result in the following fees being paid to the contactor:

- Two Single Activity Fee (£1.27) – to receive the two Single Activity Fees, it will have to be marked on the prescription to confirm that two items were supplied; contractors should also reflect this on the FP34C.
- One SSP fee (£5.35)

4) Reimbursement

The supplied products in accordance with this SSP will be reimbursed as if they were dispensed against a prescription, i.e. in this instance contractors will be reimbursed the Part VIIIA reimbursement price for the fluoxetine 10mg tablets and fluoxetine 20mg capsules regardless of whether the branded or generic product was supplied to the patient. The reimbursement price will account for VAT payment.

SSP for fluoxetine 40mg capsules

1) Endorsement

The contractor must endorse the prescription form, EPS token or EREM as per Clause 9, Part II of the Drug Tariff and with the product name and the quantity which was supplied. If the contractor will choose to endorse the EPS token instead of the EREM, then they will need to indicate on the EREM either “ND” or “Not dispensed” and then proceed with the endorsement on the EPS token.

For the product name the following options will be accepted on the endorsement:

- a) Name of the product written in full - fluoxetine 20mg capsules
- b) Abbreviation of the name – caps (capsules)

Contractors should note that abbreviations for these endorsements are allowed due to a limited number of characters in the endorsement field provided by some system suppliers. Contractors should also note that there should be no spaces in between the wording for the endorsement options as outlined in the table below.

Example no.	<i>Endorsement options</i>	
	Option 1	Option 2
<p>Example 1: Prescription for fluoxetine 40mg capsules x 112</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor supplied fluoxetine 20mg capsules x 224</p>	NCSO,caps x 224	NCSO,fluoxetine 20mg capsules x 224

2) Prescription charges

Pharmacy contractors must take one prescription levy for this SSP from patients who are not exempt from prescription charges.

3) Remuneration

Supply in accordance with this SSP will result in the following fees being paid to the contactor:

- One Single Activity Fee (£1.27)
- One SSP fee (£5.35)

4) Reimbursement

The supplied product in accordance with this SSP will be reimbursed as if it was dispensed against a prescription, i.e. in this instance contractors will be reimbursed the Part VIII A reimbursement price for the fluoxetine 20mg capsules regardless of whether the branded or generic product was supplied to the patient. The reimbursement price will account for VAT payment.

Q&A

Will the SSPs apply to cross-border prescriptions?

Yes. Patients from Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland who present their prescriptions for fluoxetine 10mg, 30mg and 40mg capsules in England are eligible to receive an alternative supply under the terms of the SSP (only where pharmacists consider it appropriate to do so using their professional judgement).

Does the SSPs apply to private prescriptions?

Yes. The scope of an SSP applies to valid prescriptions that meets the requirements of the Human Medicine Regulations (2012), so it would cover both NHS and private prescriptions, unless where it stated otherwise on the SSP itself.

Will prescription charges apply under an SSP?

Yes, patients who are not exempt from prescription charges would continue to pay this for as usual. The only circumstance in which patients would not have to pay for a prescription charge is where an SSP recommends a lower quantity to be supplied. Please note that the SSPs for fluoxetine 10mg, 30mg and 40mg capsules does not recommend a lower quantity to be supplied, so patients will continue to pay prescription charges (unless they are already exempt). For more information please see the above guidance.

For patients on fluoxetine 30mg capsules, how many prescription charges will they have to pay if they receive both a 10mg tablet and 20mg capsule under the SSP?

Patients who receive both a 10mg tablet and 20mg capsule under an SSP will only need to pay a single prescription charge as they typically would for fluoxetine 30mg capsules. However, community pharmacies would in this instance be reimbursed for two Single Activity Fees. It will need to be marked on the prescription to confirm that two different items were supplied along with reflecting this on the FP34C, as detailed in the guidance above.

What is the procedure for dispensing fluoxetine oral solution (and sugar free version), which is available as a special container?

Pharmacy contractors should supply the quantity nearest to that ordered if the medicine comes in a special container. As outlined earlier on in this guidance, a patient taking fluoxetine 10mg capsules daily for 30 days will require 2.5ml x 30 days = 75ml, therefore the pharmacist should supply 1x 70ml pack.

Can the pharmacy supply sugar free fluoxetine oral solution to patients? *NB note this option is only applicable to the SSP for fluoxetine 10mg capsules.*

Yes, the pharmacy can either supply fluoxetine 20mg/5ml oral solution SF or fluoxetine 20mg/5ml oral solution. However, this should be clearly endorsed (see the above guidance for more information).

Can pharmacists use their professional judgement to supply an alternative fluoxetine product to patients that is not listed in the SSP e.g. dispersible tablets/ unlicensed/ special products?

Pharmacists are not able to deviate from the recommendations on what to supply to patients as outlined in the SSPs for fluoxetine 10mg, 30mg and 40mg capsules. However, if pharmacists think that an alternative product not listed in the SSP would be suitable for the patient, they should either contact the prescriber to discuss this (with the patient's consent) or direct the patient back to the prescriber.