

Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) for Estraderm MX[®] 25 microgram patch – corresponding guidance on endorsement, prescription charges, remuneration and reimbursement plus Q&A.

SSP 035 for Estraderm MX[®] 25 microgram patch

1) Endorsement

The contractor must endorse the prescription form or Electronic Reimbursement Endorsement Message (EREM) as per Clause 9, Part II of the Drug Tariff.

Electronic prescription:

Where SSP endorsement functionality is available on the dispensing system the contractor must select SSP and input the three-digit reference number. The contractor must also select in the system the SSP item that has been supplied.

Example	Endorsement
	Option
<p>Prescription for Estraderm MX[®] 25 microgram patch x 8</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor supplies Evorel[®] 25 microgram patch x 8</p>	<p>SSP035</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor selects in system Evorel[®] 25 microgram patch x 8</p>

Non-electronic prescription form:

Example	Endorsement
	Option
<p>Prescription for Estraderm MX[®] 25 microgram patch x 8</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor supplies Evorel[®] 25 microgram patch x 8</p>	<p>SSP 035</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor endorses Evorel[®] 25 microgram patch x 8</p>

2) Prescription charges

Pharmacy contractors must take one prescription levy. Only one prescription charge will be applicable for patients who are not exempt from prescription charges.

3) Remuneration

Supply in accordance with this SSP035 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 SSP035 will be reimbursed as if it was dispensed against a prescription. In this instance, contractors will be reimbursed the NHS list price for Evorel® 25 microgram patch depending on the quantity supplied.

The reimbursement price will account for VAT payment.

Q&A

Will the SSP apply to cross-border prescriptions?

Yes. Patients from England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland who present their prescriptions for Estraderm MX® 25 microgram patch are eligible to receive a substituted product under the terms of this SSP035.

Does the SSP apply to private prescriptions?

Yes. The scope of this SSP035 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 the SSP?

Yes, patients who are not exempt from prescription charges would continue to pay for this 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 SSP for Estraderm MX® 25 microgram patch 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.

Can pharmacists use their professional judgement to supply an alternative product to patients?

Supply in accordance with this SSP035 only allows supply of a specific substitution up to the duration of treatment prescribed. However, if the pharmacist thinks that an alternative product, 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.

Does the SSP apply to other Hormone Replacement Therapies?

No, this SSP035 only applies to prescriptions for Estraderm MX[®] 25 microgram patch.