

Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) for Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution sugar free – corresponding guidance on endorsement, prescription charges, remuneration and reimbursement plus Q&A.

SSP 040 for Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution sugar free

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, leaving a space between SSP and the reference number, as shown below. The contractor must also select in the system the SSP item that has been supplied.

Example	Endorsement Option
<p>Prescription for Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution sugar free x 100ml</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor supplies Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution x 100ml</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor selects in system Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution x 100ml</p>	<p>SSP 040</p>

Non-electronic prescription form:

Example	Endorsement Option

<p>Prescription for Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution sugar free x 100ml</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor supplies Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution x 100ml</p>	<p>SSP 040</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor endorses Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution x 100ml</p>
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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 SSP 040 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 040 will be reimbursed as if it was dispensed against a prescription. In this instance, contractors will be reimbursed the Part VIIIA reimbursement price for the quantity supplied for Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution.

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 Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution sugar free are eligible to receive a substituted product under the terms of this SSP 040.

Does the SSP apply to private prescriptions?

Yes. The scope of this SSP 040 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 Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution sugar free 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.

Why is there no SSP to supply Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution sugar free against the oral solution?

If the prescription is for Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution, then the pharmacist can already supply either the sugar free or the sugar-containing oral solution. Therefore, this does not require an SSP.

How would the pharmacists determine whether the sugar containing oral solution is appropriate to be supplied in accordance with this SSP?

The pharmacist will need to discuss with the patient/carer **and** use their professional judgment when determining what should be supplied in accordance with this SSP 040. For diabetic patients supply sugar free options where you can. If this is not available, pharmacists should let the patient/carer know there is a small amount of sugar contained in the product supplied but don't withhold treatment.

Pharmacy contractors should note that Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution is a special container and should endorse the prescription accordingly.

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

Supply in accordance with this SSP 040 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 antibiotics?

No, this SSP 040 only applies to prescriptions for Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution sugar free.