

# Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) for Cefalexin 500mg tablets – corresponding guidance on endorsement, prescription charges, remuneration and reimbursement plus Q&A.

## SSP 072 for Cefalexin 500mg tablets

### 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
	<b>Option</b>
<p><b>Prescription for Cefalexin 500mg tablets x 28</b></p> <p>Pharmacy contractor supplies Cefalexin 500mg capsules x 28</p>	<p>SSP 072</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor selects in system Cefalexin 500mg capsules x 28</p>

#### Non-electronic prescription form:

Example	Endorsement
	<b>Option</b>
<p><b>Prescription for Cefalexin 500mg tablets x 28</b></p> <p>Pharmacy contractor supplies Cefalexin 500mg capsules x 28</p>	<p>SSP 072</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor endorses Cefalexin 500mg capsules x 28</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 SSP 072 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 072 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 Cefalexin 500mg capsules.

## Q&A

### **Will the SSP apply to cross-border prescriptions?**

Yes. Patients from England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland who present their prescriptions for Cefalexin 500mg tablets are eligible to receive a substituted product under the terms of this SSP 072.

### **Does the SSP apply to private prescriptions?**

Yes. The scope of this SSP 072 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 specifies a lower quantity to be supplied.

Please note that the SSP for Cefalexin 500mg tablets does not specify 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?**

If the pharmacist thinks that an alternative product, other than that listed within 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.

**Should pharmacists provide additional counselling when supplying patients with an alternative product?**

The pharmacist will need to ensure that the patient/carer is aware that the capsule form of Cefalexin may contain gelatine. Pharmacists may wish to check the patient information leaflet or summary product characteristics if patients are concerned.

**Does the SSP apply to other strengths or formulations of Cefalexin?**

No, this SSP 072 only applies to prescriptions for Cefalexin 500mg tablets.