

Prescribing Tip For Information

Hormone Replacement Therapy – Prepayment Certificates

A Hormone Replacement Therapy Prescription Prepayment Certificate (HRT PPC) was launched on the 1st April 2023. DHSC guidance on its introduction can be found [here](#).

Patients who are not already exempt from NHS prescription charges can now purchase an annual HRT PPC allowing individuals to access HRT treatments they need for a year for the cost of two single prescription items (current cost of an annual certificate is £19.30).

- Patients will still need to pay prescription charges for all other (non-HRT) medicines if they do not hold a valid exemption for other prescription charges.
- The simplest way for patients to apply for an HRT PPC is through the [NHSBSA website](#) although they may also be purchased through certain pharmacies offering this service.
- An HRT PPC can only be used for treatment supplied on an NHS prescription form (FP10) where the item is included on the HRT medicines [list](#) published in section XVI of the [drug tariff](#). The online list should always be accessed to see the most up to date list of 'included' HRT as this may be subject to change. The HRT PPC will be valid for any product on the HRT medicines list, whatever the clinical reason for the prescription. **In discussion with the patient, the prescriber should, if time allows, make the patient aware of the availability of the HRT PPC and which prescribed items are included on the HRT medicines list.**

To enable the introduction of the HRT PPC, regulations have been amended to mandate that HRT medicines included on the HRT medicines list must be provided on a separate NHS prescription from other prescription items from 1st April 2023. Prescribers must issue listed HRT items as single-item prescriptions regardless of whether the patient has an HRT PPC at the time of prescribing as this can be purchased by a patient at any point and can be backdated by up to one month from the date of the application.

The Government has confirmed that a digital solution will be introduced as soon as possible to prescribing systems to automate the issuing of listed HRT medicines as single-item prescriptions **however these won't be in place from 1st April 2023. Until then prescribers will be required to manually issue prescriptions for all listed HRT medicines as single-item prescriptions (i.e. separate from all other prescription items, including other listed HRT medicines).**

Where a patient holds a valid HRT PPC and presents a 'mixed' prescription (one that has both items from the HRT medicines list and non-listed items) for dispensing it will be returned to the prescriber so that separate prescriptions can be issued. A Pharmacist may at their discretion, dispense urgent items on a mixed prescription and items not supplied should be marked 'not dispensed' or 'ND'. The patient should then request new prescriptions for any items not dispensed. In exceptional circumstances when all items are deemed urgent and it is not possible to return the prescription to the prescriber the whole prescription may be dispensed. The patient will be asked to pay for all items and issued with a FP57 receipt and refund form to reclaim their HRT prescription charges.

- FP10 prescription forms including the FP10DT (EPS token) are being updated to include a new exemption tick box (box W) for use by patients who hold a valid HRT PPC. The new paper FP10 will be in circulation from the beginning of April 2023 but there will be a period of transition where old stock is still in use.
- As a temporary work around if a patient holds a valid HRT PPC the patient should select box F on the current FP10/FP10DT to indicate their exemption.

To contact the Medicines Optimisation Team please phone 01772 214302

If you have any suggestions for future topics to cover in our prescribing tips please contact Nicola.schaffel@nhs.net

All content accurate and correct on the date of issue of this tip.