

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

SSP 053 for Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension

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 |
|---|--|
| <p>Prescription for Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension x 70ml</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor supplies Clarithromycin 250mg/5ml oral suspension x QUANTITY IN LINE WITH SSP*</p> | <p>SSP 053</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor selects in system Clarithromycin 250mg/5ml oral suspension x QUANTITY IN LINE WITH SSP*</p> |

Non-electronic prescription form:

| Example | Endorsement |
|---|--|
| <p>Prescription for Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension x 70ml</p> <p>Pharmacy contractor supplies Clarithromycin 250mg/5ml oral suspension x QUANTITY IN LINE WITH SSP*</p> | <p>SSP 053</p> <p>Clarithromycin 250mg/5ml oral suspension x QUANTITY IN LINE WITH SSP*</p> |

**** Total quantity supplied in accordance with this SSP is to be equivalent to the number of days treatment prescribed on the original prescription. Pharmacists must consider the quantity of the antibiotic to be supplied in accordance with Part II Clause 13 Reconstitution of Certain Oral***

Liquids of the Drug Tariff. When the quantity reconstituted from an original pack or packs is unavoidably greater than the quantity ordered and it has not been possible for the contractor to use the remainder for or towards supplying against another prescription, payment will be calculated from the Basic Price of the preparation and will be based on the nearest pack or number of packs necessary to cover the quantity ordered.

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 053 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 053 will be reimbursed as if it was dispensed against a prescription. In this instance, contractors will be reimbursed the Part VIII A reimbursement price for the quantity supplied and endorsed for the specified product and strength listed below:

- Clarithromycin 250mg/5ml oral suspension

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 Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension are eligible to receive a substituted product under the terms of this SSP 053.

Does the SSP apply to private prescriptions?

Yes. The scope of this SSP 053 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 Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension 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.

Does special container apply for any of the substituted products in this SSP?

Where supply of the substituted product is an oral liquid, pharmacists must consider the quantity of the antibiotic to be supplied in accordance with Part II Clause 13 Reconstitution of Certain Oral Liquids of the Drug Tariff. Pharmacy contractors should note that the following product that can be substituted is a special container.

- Clarithromycin 250mg/5ml oral suspension

When the quantity reconstituted from an original pack or packs is unavoidably greater than the quantity ordered and it has not been possible for the contractor to use the remainder for or towards supplying against another prescription, payment will be calculated from the Basic Price of the preparation and will be based on the nearest pack or number of packs necessary to cover the quantity ordered.

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

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

Does the SSP apply to other antibiotics?

No, this SSP 053 only applies to prescriptions for Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension.