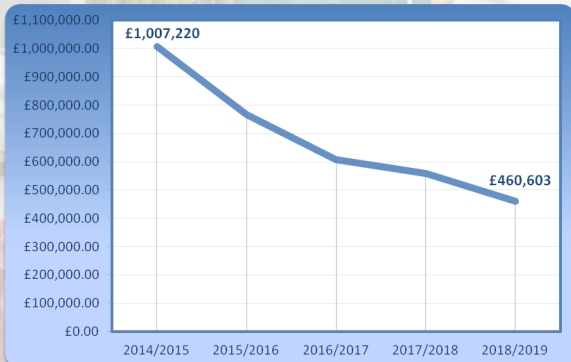


Specials Update - Medicines Management Team (Oct 2019)

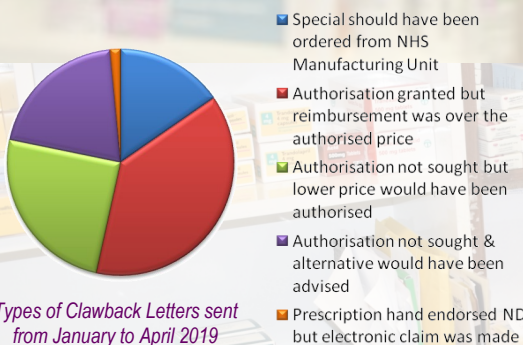
The Medicines Management Team recently presented some of the achievements made around Specials/ Unlicensed Medicines. We would like to share some of these with Community Pharmacies and thank you all for contributing to these achievements over the years. As you can see below, the reduction in spend on Specials since 2014 has been tremendous!



Thanks to the cooperation of Community Pharmacies when NHS Fife authorises lower prices than requested, we managed to avoid spending an additional £211,734 in 2018/2019!

Clawbacks

We can't talk about Specials without mentioning clawbacks. Since the clawback process was implemented in 2015, NHS Fife has recovered £420,556 in unauthorised payments. While there has definitely been an improvement in compliance with the authorisation part of The Scottish Government Reimbursement of Specials process, the number of clawback letters issued seems to have remained the same. We believe that this is something that can be improved with a bit of support, education and perseverance. NHS Fife would ultimately prefer not to issue clawbacks and we are sure the feeling is mutual about receiving them! But how do we go about tackling this? Let's have a look at some of the numbers...



Types of Clawback Letters sent from January to April 2019

NHS Fife has five main types of letter which can be issued to inform of the intention to clawback. The green, purple and blue segments represent situations where authorisation was not sought. As you can see this makes up the majority of the chart. In these situations, NHS Fife is initiating a clawback because:

- the item should have been ordered from an NHS Manufacturing Unit at a lower price

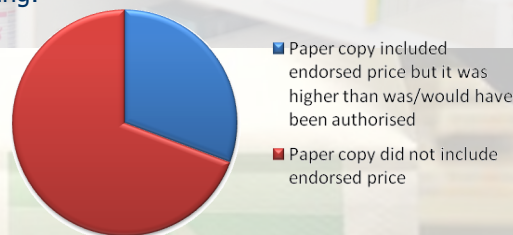
- the item would have been authorised at a lower price had authorisation been sought
- the item would not have been authorised and alternative advice would have been given

Obtaining authorisation before ordering a Special is so important; when the Health Board and contractor communicate we can manage everyone's expectations and ensure that there are no surprises when reimbursement is made.

The most common type of letter issued (the red section) is due to contractors being reimbursed a higher price than was authorised. Most of the time this is due to a *lack of endorsement*. Generally pharmacies have ordered the item at the authorised price, but when there is a lack of endorsement PSD will use an "on file" price to reimburse the prescription, this is often a higher price than was authorised.

A lack of endorsement is the main cause of clawback for every type of letter issued.

Let's take the same example of clawback letters from January to April this year and take a closer look at the endorsing:



As you can see, the **majority** of prescriptions do not have sufficient endorsing. The "SP XXXX" endorsement **must** be used in the **electronic message and paper copy** of the prescription to ensure that correct payment is made.

Items which commonly miss this endorsement include **Riboflavin Tablets and Capsules, Metolazone Tablets, Omeprazole Suspension, Levomepromazine 6mg Tablets, Megestrol 40mg Tablets, Liothyronine 5mcg Tablets and various unlicensed liquids.**

These are just a few examples, *every* prescription for a Special not included in Parts 7S/U of the Scottish Drug Tariff must be endorsed with a price and submitted with a copy of the invoice to ensure correct payment is made.

By improving endorsement of Specials we can reduce the number of clawbacks significantly.

We hope you will be on board with continuing the amazing work we have achieved so far. As ever if you require any help or support please call **Rebecca Creighton on 01383 565 397.**