

## Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate

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## TO ALL COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS WORKING WITHIN GRAMPIAN

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025  
Our Ref: DP/LA/Specials  
Enquiries to: David Pfleger  
Email: [Gram.directorofpharmacy@nhs.scot](mailto:Gram.directorofpharmacy@nhs.scot)

Dear Colleagues

### SUPPLY OF SPECIAL FORMULATION/UNLICENSED PRODUCTS

Thank you for your continued support in providing a cost-effective supply of special formulation/unlicensed products within NHS Grampian.

Please continue to send all requests for authorisation of unlicensed special formulations and imported unlicensed medicines (Specials) to:-

**[gram.specialsaberdeenshire@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.specialsaberdeenshire@nhs.scot)**

### NHS Grampian Specials List

The approved list has been reviewed and updated with price adjustments and the following changes: –

- Metolazone 2.5mg and 5mg Tablets have been removed.
- Sucralfate 1g/5ml suspension have been removed – licensed product now available.
- Levomepromazine 6mg Tablets have been removed – licensed product now available.
- Nystatin 100,000units Pessaries have been added.

A copy of the revised list is appended to this letter and is also available from the Specials Team on request: - [gram.specialsaberdeenshire@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.specialsaberdeenshire@nhs.scot)

### Request for Authorisation to Order a Special

Please forward the authorisation request using the most recent version of the 'Request for Authorisation to Order Specials' Form

Available on the SHOW and NHS Scotland Community Pharmacy website.

<https://www.communitypharmacy.scot.nhs.uk/nhs-boards/nhs-grampian/specials-unlicensed-medicines/>

When requesting authorisation:-

- Ensure you have discussed with the prescriber the use of alternative licensed options or licensed medicines "off-label."
- You **MUST** have discussed the request with the prescriber, before documenting their name and designation on the form. The pharmacist supplying a Special bears shared clinical responsibility with the prescriber, as to the suitability and safety of the product for use by the patient.
- Ensure a blank 'NHS Grampian Request Form for Authorisation to Order Specials' is completed for new requests. Forms which previously contained information for another patient **MUST NOT** be used. This has occurred in the past and is a breach of NHS Grampian Confidentiality Policy.
- Ensure the 'quoted cost' is for the full quantity that will be dispensed.

- Prescription details recorded on the request form must be accurate and **include dose as per instructions on the prescription**, to allow the Specials Team to advise on the most cost effective product.
- Email the fully completed form, attached as a Word document, to allow the Specials Team to update and return the request for authorisation. Failure to follow the advice above will cause a delay in the authorisation process and may result in the request form being returned to you.

## Endorsing

We continue to have significant pricing errors (requiring payment adjustments) which have occurred due to missing or inaccurate endorsements, especially with vitamins and minerals when over the counter products have been supplied rather than an unlicensed medicine. A section on endorsing is included in the 'Special Formulation and Unlicensed Products in Primary Care – A Guide for Pharmacists Working within NHS Grampian': - [Special Formulation And Unlicensed Products In Primary Care](https://nhs.uk/primary-care/pharmacists/special-formulation-and-unlicensed-products-in-primary-care/). If you are in doubt about endorsing a prescription for a 'special', further guidance from Practitioner Services Division (PSD) can be found at: <https://nhs.uk/services/practitioner/pharmacy/endorsing-guide/full-table-of-contents/>

Please note, it is important to ensure the electronic endorsement matches any handwritten annotation made on the prescription.

## Re-authorisations

In line with PCA(P)(2015)17, all specials should be re-authorised after 12 months if a continued supply is still required. When a current authorisation expires and you receive/ expect to receive further prescriptions, you must confirm continued clinical appropriateness with a prescriber. In the discussion with the prescriber, please make them aware of any new licensed products that may be an alternative option.

Failure to request re-authorisation may result in receiving a 'Reclaim of Excessive Cost for Un-licensed Special Preparations' letter from Primary Care Contracts, if the cost claimed is higher than the expected cost.

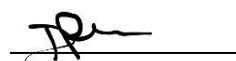
## Imported Medicines

Where a medicine requires to be imported, due to a medicine shortage and a licensed alternative is not suitable, this should only occur until supply of the licensed product returns, unless there is a difference in bioavailability between products and where discussion with the prescriber must be undertaken before any change.

If you have any questions about sourcing a specific unlicensed product or about the authorisation process in general, please do not hesitate to contact the Specials Team for advice.

I thank you for your continued support in providing a cost effective supply of special formulation/unlicensed products, within NHS Grampian.

Yours sincerely



David Pflieger  
**Director of Pharmacy**  
**NHS GRAMPIAN**

## NHS Grampian Specials List: Version 16 (List correct August 2025)

- This list identifies products for which pre-authorisation is granted and the price we expect it can be obtained.
- The suppliers listed are purely suggestions and the costs quoted will be the maximum paid to a pharmacy ordering these products from any source.
- Pharmacy contractors are still required to discuss the appropriateness of supplying these unlicensed products with the prescriber.

**Please Note: The adjacent pricing information is Commercial in Confidence and access to this pricing is restricted to NHS staff, on a need to know basis only.**

Product	Expected cost	May be obtained from	Notes
Ciclosporin Eye Ointment	£103.00 for 3.5g £115.00 for 3.5g	Aclardian 02954 213490 Rokshaw 0191 5106500	
L-Tryptophan 500mg Capsules	£46.00 for 84 capsules	AAH Via online account	May require to be ordered as Optimax 500mg Capsules
Midazolam Buccal 10mg/ml Oral Solution	£48.00 for 5ml	Ethigen 01355 598150	
Nystatin 100,000 unit pessaries	£17.00 for 12 pessaries	Ethigen 01355 598150	
Sucralfate 1g Tablets	£11.00 for 40 tablets	Ethigen 01355 598150	
Sucralfate Enema		Pharmaceutical Specials Services Tayside	Authorisation is not required if obtained from Pharmaceutical Specials Services Tayside
Trimetazidine 20mg Tablets	£30.00 for 60 tablets	Clinigen 01932 824 100	

### **Diltiazem 2% Cream and Ointment**

Diltiazem 2% Cream is the product of choice in NHS Grampian for anal fissures and listed in the NHS Grampian Formulary. Diltiazem 2% Cream is also in the Drug Tariff Part 7S, therefore no authorisation is required.

Prescriptions for Diltiazem 2% Ointment – please confirm with prescriber/pharmacotherapy team, that this product has been specifically requested by the Speciality.

### **Vitamins and Minerals:**

A number of these products will be available as an over the counter product (food supplement grade). Discussion should be had with the prescriber on whether an over the counter product maybe supplied or if an unlicensed product is required (supplied with a COA/COC).

We do not expect supplies to come from a Specials manufacturer unless specifically requested by the prescriber. If the unlicensed medicine is requested, authorisation **must be** obtained.

Please refer to the table below, as a reference, for the cost we would expect for two products available as over the counter products. Seek advice if looking to obtain a product at a higher price.

<b>Vitamin</b>	<b>Strength</b>	<b>Pack Size</b>	<b>Expected Cost</b>
Nicotinamide	250mg Tablets	100	£6.00
Vitamin E	75iu Capsules	100	£6.00
	200iu Capsules	100	£12.00