

Guide Prices for Commonly Requested Unlicensed Medicines

Effective from 1st April 2025, any patient presenting with a prescription for the items below, please use the prices and information below to procure and endorse unlicensed specials or imports. If you can obtain at this price or lower, you do not need to seek authorisation.

The prices on the pre-approved guide price list are to provide a maximum cost where the Board are happy to approve without prior authorisation; these do not and should not replace the invoice price submitted for payment. Pharmacy teams must ensure that the item is correctly endorsed electronically (and on paper) as per invoice price and not as listed below.

NB Updated circular in respect to Special preparations issued April 2023 – where a product is listed in Part 7S for a liquid or soft-paraffin-based product, that price applies to equivalent suspensions, solutions and products with a white or yellow soft paraffin base, respectively [PCA2023\(P\)17.pdf](https://www.scot.nhs.uk/pca2023(P)17.pdf) ([scot.nhs.uk](https://www.scot.nhs.uk))

If the guide price provided cannot be met or if the drug prescribed is not on the list below, then **authorisation will be required**. In these situations, please submit the authorisation request form and email from your NHS generic mailbox to nhsh.cpsoffice@nhs.scot

For products available from an NHS manufacturing unit, such as the Pharmaceuticals Specials Service (PSS, formerly Tayside Pharmaceuticals), no authorisation is required.

For information relating to medicines shortages, please click [here](#).

Commonly used unlicensed medicines manufacturers/suppliers contact numbers can be found on the NHS Community Pharmacy website [here](#).

Medication	Strength	Pack size	Cost expected
Alfentanil Nasal Spray (can also be used buccally and sublingually)	5mg/5ml	1 metered dose = 140 mcgs	No authorisation required – available from Oxford Pharmacy Store. Carriage costs incurred for this product from Oxford Pharmacy Stores will be covered
Bisoprolol	5mg/5mL	1 x 100mL	Up to £45
Capsaicin cream	0.025%	1 x 60g	Up to £59
Capsaicin cream	0.075%	1 x 45g	Up to £62
Co-enzyme Q10 capsules	100mg	1 x 60	Up to £30
Co-Phenotrope tablet	2.5mg/25microgram	1x 100	Up to £61
DEKAs Plus	60ml liquid 60 Softgels 60 Chewable tablets		Up to £70 Only for use in patients with cystic fibrosis

Medication	Strength	Pack size	Cost expected
Diltiazem Cream/Ointment	2%	1 x 30g	Cream in Scottish drug tariff, no authorisation required. Ointment does not need authorisation if it can be procured at the price of the cream (in drug tariff) or less
Distigmine tablet	5mg	1 x 50	Up to £160
Flecainide Suspension	25mg/5ml	200ml	Please note oral solution sugar free is licensed
Fleet Bisacodyl enema	10mg/30mL	1 x 30mL	Up to £23
Guanfacine M/R Tablets	1mg, 2mg, 3mg, 4mg	1 x 100	Licensed version now available
Hepa-Merz Sachet	3000		Up to £1.65 per sachet
Hyoscine butylbromide oral solution	10mg/5mL	1 x 100mL	Up to £49
Hyoscine hydrobromide oral solution	300microgram/5mL	1 x 100mL	Available from PSS (formerly Tayside). Other suppliers pre-approved up to £42
Levomepromazine tablets	6mg	28	No authorisation required – Licensed version available
Lisdexamfetamine Capsules	30mg, 70mg	1 x 28	Licensed version now available
Magnaspartate (magnesium 10mmol) Oral Powder Sachets	243mg		Ensure licensed version is used
Midazolam oro-mucosal solution Epistatus is the only brand recommended in NHS Highland for status epilepticus.	10mg/mL	1 x 5mL	All pre-filled syringes are now licensed. See Highland Formulary on TAM. To be prescribed according to the adult and paediatric epilepsy service. This 5mL preparation is usually for those patients who have frequent seizures or for doses out with the pre-filled syringe sizes. Up to £170

Medication	Strength	Pack size	Cost expected
Morphine Sulfate in Intrasite prefilled syringe	10mg/10ml		No authorisation required – available from PSS (formerly Tayside).
Morphine Sulfate in Instillagel prefilled syringe	10mg/10ml		No authorisation required – available from PSS (formerly Tayside).
Olanzapine liquid	2.5mg/5mL	1 x 100mL	For doses 5mg and over there are licensed oro-dispersible tablets. Available from PSS (formerly Tayside). Other suppliers pre-approved up to £42
Omeprazole solution (Aclomep)	20mg/5mL	1x100mL	This should only be prescribed as stated in TAM : Third-line: children under 1 year or enteral tube larger than 6 Fr gauge. First-line: enteral tube smaller than 6 Fr gauge. Up to £89
Omeprazole Sugar Free Suspension	20mg/5ml		No authorisation required for sugar free suspension as this is licensed. This should only be prescribed as stated in TAM . Cannot be used in small bore enteral tube.
Paraldehyde in olive oil rectal solution	50%	10 to 30mL	Available from NHS PPU at Stockport. Other suppliers pre-approved up to £33
Potassium chloride MR tablet	600mg	100	Up to £125
Prazosin tablet	2mg 5mg	100	Up to £55 Up to £59
Sucralfate tablet (Suspension 1g/5ml Sugar Free is licensed)	1g	40	Up to £60
Sulindac tablets	200mg	100	Licensed 100mg tablets available
Terbinafine suspension	250mg/5mL	50mL	Available from PSS (formerly Tayside). Other suppliers pre-approved up to £34

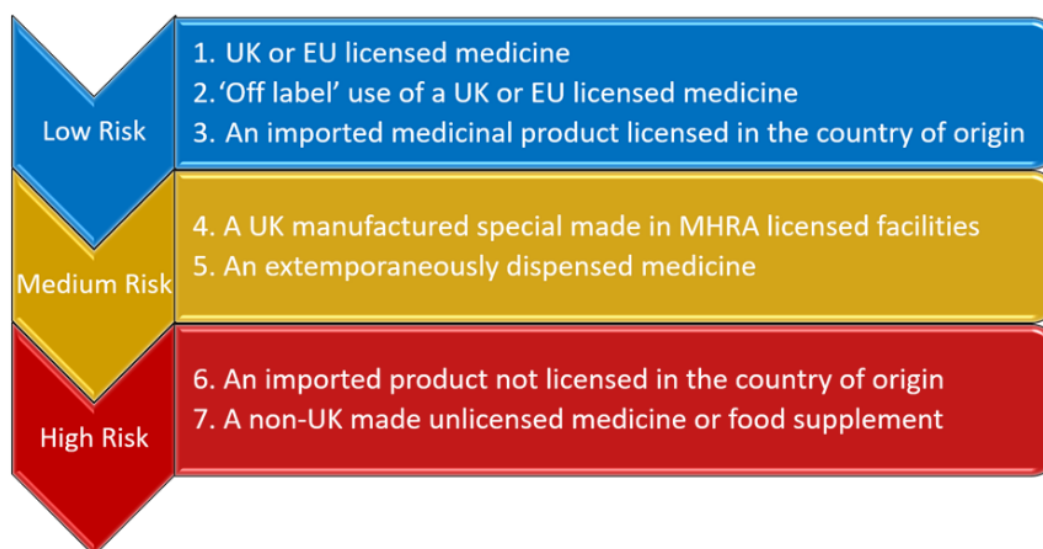
Commonly prescribed vitamins and supplements

Some of these items are not classed as medicines but fall under pay and report mechanisms. Where there is a licensed preparation, this is listed within the expected cost column. To help make things less confusing for contractors, we include these in our authorisation processes as PSD will refer contractors back to their Board for approval.

In general patients should be advised to buy vitamins and food supplements for the purpose of supplementation. They should only be prescribed for proven deficiency or for the treatment of conditions, not for supplementation.

Vitamin/Supplements	Strength	Pack Size	Expected cost
Acetylcysteine	600mg effervescent tablets		Licensed NACSYS
	600mg capsules	60	Licensed preparation available
Co-enzyme Q10 capsules	100mg	60	Up to £30
Colecalciferol	400unit capsules	30	Licensed InVita Licensed product, included in SDT
	800unit capsules	30	
	800unit tablets	30	Licensed product, included in SDT
	1000unit tablets/capsules	28/30	Licensed Stexerol D3 or Aviticol
	10,000unit/mL (200 unit/drop)	10ml	Licensed Thorens See formulary
Ergocalciferol	All strengths	-	Not recommended. Use colecalciferol instead
Magnesium Glycerophosphate	4mmol chewable tablets	50	Licensed Neomag. Can be chewed or swallowed
Vitamin E	75 unit capsules	100	£8.99
	200 unit capsules	100	£14.99
Vitamin B2, Riboflavin	50mg capsules	100	£8.50
	100mg capsules	100	£12.00
	100mg MR tablets	60	£12.00

Medical treatment should always use licensed medicines wherever possible, and this is the case for most patients. Please note that the [MHRA Guidance Note 14 – The supply of unlicensed medicinal products \(“specials”\) \(Appendix 2\)](#) sets out the hierarchy of risk for the supply of unlicensed medicines that should be followed. A simplified diagram of the hierarchy is shown below:



Unlicensed medicines do not have a marketing authorisation in the UK and may not have been assessed by the MHRA. Regulation 167 of the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 allows for unlicensed medicines to be supplied when there are no licensed available medicines that can meet the needs of individual patients.

The needs of individual patients must be clinical in nature and are determined by the prescriber responsible for their care.

How to identify a licensed medicine

It is not always clear if the product you are supplying holds a product license. The Marketing Authorisation number on the outer packaging will take one of two different formats, depending on when the medicine was authorised:

- medicines with a PLGB prefix, for example PLGB/12345/12340, were authorised for the Great Britain (GB) market before 1 January 2025 but are now valid for the whole of the UK
- medicines with a PL prefix, for example PL/12345/12340 have UK-wide Marketing Authorisations.

From 1 January 2025, all UK-licensed medicines must bear 'UK only' on the outer packaging.

There may be medicines without 'UK only' available on the UK market for a period until their expiry date. If obtained from bona fide sources, these medicines can continue to be used until their expiry date.

For more information, see the MHRA page [Labelling and packaging of human medicines following the Windsor Agreement.](#)