

GUERNSEY'S PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICE.

There are some distinct differences between the pharmaceutical service here in Guernsey compared to that in England. The following is a brief guide designed to provide information for Pharmacists and Prescribers who may be new to the island.

The prescribing support team working at Health and Social Care (HSC) will be very happy to help. Please contact us:

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- The 28 Day Rule

Health benefit prescriptions are written on a standard white prescription forms PS6. The maximum duration that may be supplied on any prescription is 28 days. If a prescriber exceeds this, then the pharmacist must only supply sufficient medication to last 28 days. The quantity supplied should be endorsed in the left-hand column of the prescription form.

Prescribers should ensure that the dose instructions on a prescription match the quantity. If a prescription reads “*one to be taken daily. Supply x56*”. The pharmacist will only be permitted to supply 28! This applies to inhalers e.g. “*Salbutamol inh. One puff qds x2 inhalers*” An inhaler contains 200 doses so only 112 doses are required for 28 days and the pharmacist can only supply ONE inhaler.

- Prescription Charges

There is a fixed prescription fee which is payable for each item on the prescription. This applies to everyone, including children and students, unless:

- They have reached **pensionable age**. (not 65 years and over)
- They are claiming Income Support or the dependant of someone who is.

- They are covered by the Medical Expenses Assistance Scheme or the dependant of someone who is.
- They are receiving Severe Disability Benefit
- They have a certificate issued by Social Security that shows they are exempt from the charge.

- The White List.

HSC maintains a list of medicines and medical appliances which may be prescribed at public expense on a prescription. This is called the Whitelist. The most up to date version of the list can be found on our webpage: <https://gov.gg/whitelist>. The list is produced in alphabetical order and by BNF chapter order.

Prescribers should ensure that the item is on the list before a prescription is issued. Pharmacists should check the list before making a supply. If there is any uncertainty the patient should be referred back to the prescriber or contact the PSU for further information.

- Repeat Prescribing

As we are not part of the NHS, the 'spine' does not exist in Guernsey and as yet we have no means to prescribe electronically. If a prescriber wishes to issue repeat prescriptions, then up to six months of post-dated forms may be issued to a patient (maximum 28 days' supply on each). Whilst, strictly speaking, a prescription is not valid until the date stipulated, local legislation allows the pharmacist some professional discretion; a prescription may be legally dispensed up to 4 days before the stated date. If the patient is leaving the island for a short time e.g. for a holiday then the pharmacist is permitted to supply a prescription up to 28 days in advance. It is important to note that any such action by the pharmacist must not prejudice the regulations set out in the misuse of drugs ordinance. **Controlled drugs may not be supplied in advance.** This is set out in The Health Service (Pharmaceutical Benefit) Regulations 1990. [Health Service \(Medical Appliances\) Regulations, 1990 \(guernseylegalresources.gg\)](http://guernseylegalresources.gg) Should they require more than 28 days advanced supply, then it is expected that the patient obtain and pay for a private prescription.

- Non Medical Prescribers

Currently only certain medical practitioners are legally permitted to prescribe drugs and medical appliances in Guernsey. These include doctors, dentists, veterinary surgeons, nurse independent prescribers, pharmacist independent prescribers and supplementary prescribers. Details can be found in the local ordinance: [GUERNSEY STATUTORY INSTRUMENT \(guernseylegalresources.gg\)](http://guernseylegalresources.gg) Only those practitioners

legally able to prescribe and who are registered with HSC may issue a PS6 prescription under the health benefit scheme. [Health Service \(Benefit\) \(Approved Prescribers\) Ordinance, 2017 \(guernseylegalresources.gg\)](http://guernseylegalresources.gg) If you are in any doubt, please contact the PSU for more information.

- Medical Appliance Scheme

Guernsey has a system in place whereby patients who require a regular supply of a medical appliance(s) may obtain these direct from a pharmacy. A medical practitioner must first register the patient with HSC. They will then be issued with a unique “appliance number” The pharmacy can then complete a pink (G)PS.25 form detailing the products required. The quantity should be for no more than would be expected to last 28 days. 2 pairs of compression stockings and 2 boxes of freestyle libre sensors can be supplied. Pharmacists will ensure that excessive quantities are not requested. The patient’s appliance number must be stated on the order and the recipient must sign the form. Only those appliances listed in the drug tariff and whitelist are permitted.

- Reciprocal health agreements

There is an arrangement between the UK and the Bailiwick of Guernsey whereby residents visiting Guernsey from the UK may access healthcare services. This extends to the pharmaceutical service. A health benefit prescription (PS6) for a UK visitor which has been written by a local prescriber may be supplied in the usual way. Guernsey’s exemption rules apply e.g., child <16 years visiting from the UK would be expected to pay a prescription charge. NHS prescriptions may not be dispensed under the reciprocal agreement. Pharmacies may supply privately at their own discretion. It is important to note that only prescribers who are registered with HSC to practice in the bailiwick of Guernsey may issue a prescription for a controlled drug.

- Miscellaneous

- Oral contraceptives are not to be prescribed on a health benefit prescription unless the prescriber states that it is for a medical reason.
- Currently there is no specific form for dispensing by instalments. This is added as a direction by the prescriber on a standard PS6 form.
- Additional fees can be claimed by pharmacies for dispensing medication in multi-compartment compliance aids (MCA's) or dosette boxes! The fee can only be claimed if the prescriber has made a prior arrangement with HSC and gained confirmation from the nominated pharmacy. Writing "dosette box" on the prescription will not enable the pharmacy to claim payment.
- Items which need to be prescribed privately must be on a separate private prescription form. They should not be included with other items on a health prescription. For example, drugs for erectile dysfunction and oral contraceptives.

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States of Guernsey
Prescribing Support Unit