NHS Reforms; Important implications for FP10 prescription forms

- As you will be aware, the NHS reforms come into effect from 1st April 2013. Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) will cease to exist from 31st March and commissioning responsibilities will transfer to Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), the National Commissioning Board (NCB) or Local Authorities (LAs).

- Prescribers and community pharmacists need to be aware that there will be changes to NHS prescription forms and that some actions are required of them either pre- or post- April 1st. We have produced this local guidance as it appears that no overarching national information has been circulated to GP practices, provider organisations or Community Pharmacies by the DH or other agency. We have therefore collated information from a variety of sources.

- From 1st April the Northamptonshire PCT organisational code, 5PD, will no longer exist. The new organisational codes are 04G for NHS Nene CCG and 03V for NHS Corby CCG. These new codes and organisation names will need to appear on the bottom of prescription forms from 1st April.

- Where GP practices use their IT systems to print details on the prescriptions [FP10 (SS)], they need to ensure that they comply with the requirements for overprinting of NHS prescription forms and from 1st April 2013 their prescriptions must bear the new organisation name and code. GP clinical system suppliers should make this change automatically. If you find that your organisation details are not automatically updated on 1st April please contact your clinical system supplier. The new overprint specifications can be found at [http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/PrescriptionServices/938.aspx](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/PrescriptionServices/938.aspx)

- GP practices should continue to order their FP10 (SS) forms (single sheet prescriptions for laser printers) via Francis Crick House as they currently do.

- The facility to attribute community health service prescriber costs to a patient’s GP practice will no longer be available. Community nurses (and other community health service prescribers) will no longer be required to write the GP practice “K” or “Y” code on their prescriptions. A separate indicative prescribing budget will be allocated for community health service prescribers and new pre-printed personalised prescription forms will be required.

- These new pre-printed personalised prescription forms used by community nurses (and others e.g. GP pads for home visits) will need to be ordered with the relevant new organisational codes for each prescriber. However, these cannot be ordered until 2nd April at the earliest as 3M is apparently closed until that date. The NHS Business Services Authority (NHS BSA) have therefore advised there will be a “grace” period during which prescriptions bearing the old organisation name and code can be used.

- The new cost centre code for Community staff within NHS Corby CCG is Y03733 and for NHS Nene CCG is Y03734. These codes will appear on the pre-printed forms.

- Community staff who currently use GP systems to print their prescription pads will need to ensure they have a pre-printed personalised pad as it will be necessary to temporarily suspend this arrangement until further clarification can be obtained.


This edition is also available on PathfinderRF via the following link [http://www.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/nene](http://www.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/nene) and on the Nene CCG and Corby CCG websites.
Community staff should return any unused prescription pads to either, York House, Isebrook or Berrywood Hospital as previously advised

- The NHS BSA have produced a factsheet regarding the ordering of prescription forms which can be found at http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/PrescriptionServices/Documents/PrescriptionServices/NHS_Reforms_fact_sheet_1_v1.0.pdf

- Currently, where prescriptions do not include prescriber codes and the prescriber cannot be identified by NHS BSA, costs are fair shared among PCTs. In the new NHS, the NHS CB will not have authority to fair share costs among new commissioners, so the NHS BSA, when it prices prescriptions, must be able to identify the cost centre and to recharge the costs. Community Pharmacists should be aware that from April, the NHS BSA may return the prescription form to the contractor if there is no prescriber code(s) present. If the code can be identified, this should be added to the form and returned. If the contractor has been unable to identify the code, the prescription should be endorsed to that effect, and returned. In either case, the prescription will be paid when resubmitted. Contractors are therefore advised to check prescriptions at the time of dispensing, and attempt to identify and insert codes where any are missing. http://www.psrc.org.uk/data/files/about_us/April_Guidance.pdf

- As advised above, there appears to have been very little national guidance circulated about these changes; locally we will provide as much help as we are able to and if you have any further queries we will do our best to answer them.

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