



Dear Colleague

**PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES:
REIMBURSEMENT ARRANGEMENTS
METHADONE PREPARATIONS**

Purpose

1. This Circular informs NHS Boards and community pharmacy contractors of revised protocol arrangements used to determine reimbursement prices in the Drug Tariff for methadone standard and sugar-free preparations 1 mg/1ml 500ml with effect for dispensings 1 September 2009 onwards.

Detail

2. Methadone preparations form part of the Controlled Drugs listed in Schedules 1, 2 & 3 of the MDA Regulations 1971, which in turn are identified in Annex A of the Drug Tariff as zero discount items.

3. A check conducted in January 2009 of the prices being paid by community pharmacy contractors for these items has however identified a significant differential between these prices and the protocol driven reimbursement price in the Tariff.

4. The reimbursement prices in the Drug Tariff for dispensings 1 September 2009 onwards are accordingly being adjusted to more closely reflect those observed in the market and will be:

Methadone 1 mg/1ml 500ml-	£7.48
Methadone SF 1mg/1ml 500ml-	£7.99

5. The price for the Linctus remains unchanged.

1 September 2009

Addresses

For action
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For information
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6. These reimbursement prices will be the subject of periodic review in the light of actual prices achieved by contractors and the Drug Tariff will be amended in future as appropriate.

7. Community Pharmacy Scotland has been consulted on the terms of this Circular.

Action

7. NHS Boards are asked to copy this circular to all community pharmacy contractors on their pharmaceutical lists.

Yours sincerely

FRANK STRANG
Deputy Director