



### Ophthalmic Special Order Products, General Principles

- When clinically appropriate and available, licensed products should always be prescribed and dispensed in preference to unlicensed products.
- Where a licensed product is not available, standard Drug Tariff products are preferred e.g. hypromellose 0.3%w/v or 0.5%w/v rather than 0.25%w/v
- Where a preservative-free (PF) preparation is clinically necessary, licensed Single Dose Units (SDUs) or licensed multi-dose devices e.g. Tear-Lac® should be prescribed if available
- Excipient intolerances should be included on the prescription (some licensed and unlicensed products including those labelled preservative-free contain potentially sensitising excipients)
- Preservative-free preparations should only be used for a limited period once opened. Justified and validated in-use shelf lives should be provided by the manufacturer.
- Single dose units should be used once only in accordance with the licence
- **For items not on the list, please confirm with secondary care to ensure that a transcription error has not occurred.**

<u>BNF name and form</u>	<u>Comments and suggested alternatives</u>	<u>Drug Tariff price England &amp; Wales/Scotland as at May 14 where applicable</u>
<b>Anti-infectives</b>		
G.Amphotericin 0.15%w/v PF multidose	Not suitable for primary care suggest specialist use only	
G.Cefuroxime 5%w/v and PF multidose (other strengths may be specified)	Not suitable for primary care suggest specialist use only	
G.Ciprofloxacin 0.2%w/v PF multidose	Not suitable for primary care. 24 hr in-use shelf life as cannot be refrigerated. Licensed ciprofloxacin 0.3%w/w ointment (Ciloxan®) or licensed levofloxacin preservative-free (Oftraquix®) are preservative free alternatives.	
G.Gentamicin 1.5%w/v and PF multidose (other strengths may be specified)	Not suitable for primary care suggest specialist use only	
G.Polihexanide 0.02%w/v multidose	Not suitable for primary care suggest specialist use only	
G.Trifluorothymidine (Trifluridine) 1%w/v multidose and PF multidose	Not suitable for primary care suggest specialist use only	

<u>BNF name and form</u>	<u>Comments and suggested alternatives</u>	<u>Drug Tariff price England &amp; Wales/Scotland as at May 14 where applicable</u>
<b>Lubricants and ciclosporin</b>		
G.Acetylcysteine 0.5%w/v	Suggest error, check if 5%w/v intended (Ilube®)	
G.Acetylcysteine 5%w/v PF multidose	For dry eye with mucous tear film in patients intolerant of benzalkonium chloride. (Ilube® available which is not preservative free). If PF required confirmed, unlicensed special listed in Drug Tariff (not Northern Ireland). Fixed price to NHS.	£37.53/£57.33 per 10ml
G.Acetylcysteine 10%w/v preserved and PF multidose	For severe dry eye with mucous tear film. Unlicensed special listed in Drug Tariff (not Northern Ireland or Scotland). Fixed price to NHS	£46.88 per 10ml
Oc.Ciclosporin 2%w/w	Suggest error, check if 0.2%w/w intended	
Oc.Ciclosporin 0.2%w/w	For severe dry eye, graft rejection, severe vernal conjunctivitis, some immune mediated disorders. Preservative-free but contains lanolin. Commercially available as veterinary product Optimmune® Source from veterinary wholesaler*. Unlicensed special listed in Drug Tariff (not Northern Ireland or Scotland). Fixed price to NHS	£80.98 per 3.5g
G.Ciclosporin 0.05%w/v PF SDUs	Available as licensed product in USA, Restasis®. Licensed in USA as a topical immunomodulator indicated to increase tear production in patients whose tear production is presumed to be suppressed due to ocular inflammation associated with keratoconjunctivitis sicca. May be imported as ophthalmic special order product.	£7.09 per 0.4ml
G.Ciclosporin 0.06%w/v PF multidose	For severe dry eye, graft rejection, severe vernal conjunctivitis, some immune mediated disorders. Unlicensed product available in UK as alternative to 0.05%w/v.	

BNF name and form	Comments and suggested alternatives	Drug Tariff price England & Wales/Scotland as at May 14 where applicable
G.Ciclosporin 2% PF multidose	Formulated in arachis oil therefore may be allocated 28 day in-use shelf life. Avoid in peanut allergy. Unlicensed special listed in Drug Tariff (not Northern Ireland or Scotland). Fixed price to NHS.	£111.77 per 10ml
G.Hypromellose 0.1%w/v PF multidose	<p><u>Preserved</u> - No advantage prescribing strengths other than licensed 0.3%w/v, Unlicensed special listed in Drug Tariff (not Northern Ireland). Fixed price to NHS.</p> <p><u>Preservative-free</u> - Licensed preservative free single dose units classed as medicines e.g. Artelac® 0.32%w/v and medical devices containing hypromellose 0.3%w/v e.g. Hydromoor® 0.3%w/v, Lumecare® 0.3%w/v and Tear-lac®.</p>	
G.Hypromellose 0.25%w/v		£13.44/£41.83 per 10ml
G.Hypromellose 0.25%w/v preservative free multidose		£13.44 per 10ml
G.Hypromellose 0.3%w/v PF multidose		
G.Hypromellose 0.32%w/v PF, 0.5%w/v PF, 1%w/v PF multidose		
G.Liquid Paraffin Light, G.Liquid Paraffin	Suggest Simple eye ointment, Lacrilube®, Xailin® Night or Vita-POS®	
G.Sodium chloride 0.9%w/v PF multidose	Other lubricants may be more suitable but if required, suggest Minims® Saline	

BNF name and form	Comments and suggested alternatives	Drug Tariff price England & Wales/Scotland as at May 14 where applicable
<b>Glaucoma</b>		
Acetazolamide oral liquid Suggest rationalise strength to most frequently prescribed = 50mg/ml (250mg in 5ml)	Tablets will disperse in water. Use solution (not suspension) for fine bore naso-gastric tubes where there is a potential problem of blocking. For small doses e.g. 50mg, suspensions may be used administered using an oral syringe. Drug Tariff price includes the following formulations: standard formulation including standard flavours; sugar free; alcohol free; colour free; flavour free; lactose free and non-standard flavours	Acetazolamide 250mg/5ml oral suspension £225.97 per 100ml
G.Glycerol 1%v/v and 10%v/v	Not suitable for primary care suggest specialist use only	
G.Pilocarpine 0.1%w/v, 0.25%w/v, 0.5%w/v	0.1%w/v normally used for diagnosis only. These strengths unlikely to be of benefit query strength.	
G.Pilocarpine 0.4%w/v	Suggest error, check is 4%w/v intended?	
G.Pilocarpine 1-4%w/v PF multidose	Minims® 2%w/v available if appropriate (no potentially sensitising excipients) or ask ophthalmologist to review.	
G.Pilocarpine 6%w/v, 8%w/v	Very high strengths - check with prescriber	

BNF name and form	Comments and suggested alternatives	Drug Tariff price England & Wales/Scotland as at May 14 where applicable
<b>Corticosteroids</b>		
G.Dexamethasone 1%w/v	Suggest error, check is 0.1%w/v intended?	
G.Dexamethasone 0.1%w/v PF multidose	Offer licensed single dose units of Dexamethasone Sodium Phosphate 0.1%w/v as alternative (Dropodex® or Minims®). Exception could be patient who cannot tolerate phosphate or disodium edetate in licensed products. Unlicensed special listed at set price in Drug Tariff (not Northern Ireland or Scotland).	£24.64 per 10ml
G.Prednisolone 0.003%w/v, 0.005%w/v 0.01%w/v	Unlikely to be of benefit, query strength and see alternative strengths below	
G.Prednisolone 0.1%w/v preserved and PF	Preferred strength for patients who require low strength topical corticosteroid. Unlicensed special listed at set price in Drug Tariff (not Northern Ireland), Only PF listed in Scotland.	£28.88 per 10ml £28.88/£53.30 per 10ml
G.Prednisolone 0.03%w/v, 0.05%w/v, 0.125%w/v preserved and preservative-free multidose	Suggest source 0.1%w/v from competitive manufacturer.	0.03%w/v £29.32 per 10ml
G.Prednisolone 0.25%w/v, 0.3%w/v, 0.5%w/v PF multidose	Suggest licensed Minims® Prednisolone Sodium Phosphate 0.5%w/v as alternative. 0.3%w/v unlicensed special listed at set price in Drug Tariff (not Northern Ireland or Scotland).	0.3%w/v £29.16 per 10ml
G.Prednisolone 0.3%w/v	Suggest licensed 0.5%w/v (Predsol®) or if not available, betamethasone 0.1%w/v (Betnesol®, Vista-methasone®), fluoromethalone (FML®), loteprednol (Lotemax®), rimexolone (Vexol®) or Minims® Prednisolone Sodium Phosphate 0.5%w/v. Unlicensed special listed at set price in Drug Tariff (not Northern Ireland), Only PF listed in Scotland.	£31.73 per 10ml
G.Prednisolone 1%w/v PF multidose	This product would be the prednisolone sodium phosphate so not equivalent potency to prednisolone acetate 1%w/v (PredForte®), ascertain prescriber is aware. Offer Minims® Prednisolone Sodium Phosphate 0.5%w/v, Dropodex® or Minims® Dexamethasone sodium Phosphate 0.1%w/v as alternative. If required source from competitive manufacturer.	

<u>Ophthalmic Special</u>	<u>Comments and suggested alternatives</u>	<u>Drug Tariff price England &amp; Wales/Scotland as at May 14 where applicable</u>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>		
G.Cysteamine/ Mercaptamine eye drops 0.11%w/v	For cystinosis. 0.55%w/v is more frequently used. Single source amongst NHS manufacturing units.	
G.Cysteamine/ Mercaptamine eye drops 0.44%w/v	May be imported as ophthalmic special order product. Available as licensed product in USA, Cystaran®. CYSTARAN is a cystine-depleting agent indicated for the treatment of corneal cystine crystal accumulation in patients with cystinosis.	
G.Cysteamine/ Mercaptamine eye drops 0.55%w/v	For cystinosis. Single source amongst NHS manufacturing units.	
G.Sodium chloride 0.5%w/v and 0.45%w/v	Likely to be an error check if 5%w/v or 4.5%w/v - if 4.5%w/v, suggest 5%w/v	
Oc.Sodium chloride 5%w/w	For corneal oedema, recurrent corneal erosion syndrome. Preserved with methyl parahydroxybenzoate and propyl parahydroxybenzoate also contains lanolin. Unlicensed special listed in Drug Tariff (not Northern Ireland or Scotland). Fixed price to NHS	£28.82 per 5g.
G.Sodium chloride PF 5%w/v	For corneal oedema, recurrent corneal erosion syndrome. Alternatives are eye ointment (see above), prescribable PF single dose units (£73.58 for 20 x 0.45ml single dose units, licensed medical device available in England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or benzalkonium chloride-free sodium chloride 5%w/v eye drops (licensed medical device available in England, Wales and Northern Ireland – see below) which may be acceptable. If unacceptable, unlicensed special listed in Drug Tariff (not Northern Ireland or Scotland). Fixed price to NHS	£21.14 per 10ml.
G.Sodium chloride 5%w/v (Scotland)	For corneal oedema, recurrent corneal erosion syndrome. Unlicensed medicine in Scotland. Available as prescribable licensed medical device in England, Wales and Northern Ireland listed in Drug Tariff e.g. Hypersal® at £25.25 per 10ml	£25.25 per 10ml
G.Sodium citrate 10.11%w/v	Not suitable for primary care suggest specialist use only	
G.Sodium cromoglicate 2%w/v PF multidose	Suggest commercially available product Catacrom®. No potentially sensitising excipients.	

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<b>Mydriatics</b>		
G.Atropine 1%w/v PF multidose	Minims® Atropine Sulphate 1%w/v may be suitable alternative. No potentially sensitising excipients.	
G.Homatropine hydrobromide 2%w/v PF multidose	Suggest alternative commercially available mydriatic-cycloplegic e.g. Minims® Cyclopentolate Hydrochloride, Minims® Tropicamide. No potentially sensitising excipients.	

G. = eye drops      Oc. = eye ointment

Unlicensed specials listed in Drug Tariff for England & Wales in part VIII B, for Scotland in part 7S.

Eye drops classed as medical devices listed in Drug Tariff for England & Wales in part IX A, for Scotland in part 3, for Northern Ireland in part III. Special order manufacturers listed in the British National Formulary are preferred suppliers. Local ophthalmic unit in secondary care may advise.

\*Veterinary wholesalers will supply to community pharmacists. (Pharmacies dealing with veterinary products may not possess a Wholesale Dealer's licence and therefore only supply against prescriptions from veterinary prescribers).