**Reimbursement of Prescription Charges for Anti-Tuberculosis Drugs in Darlington, DDES and North Durham**

The three CCGs responsible for commissioning healthcare for County Durham & Darlington will fund any prescription charges due for tuberculosis medicines dispensed in community pharmacies. Pharmacies across Darlington, DDES and North Durham CCGs should **not** collect NHS prescription charges from patients when dispensing anti-TB drugs prescribed by the specialist TB nursing service. Pharmacies are nonetheless required to submit all prescriptions for patients who are not otherwise exempt from NHS prescription charges to the NHS BSA in the ‘charge paid’ category. Arrangements for reimbursement are set out below.

**Background**

Tuberculosis (TB) is a curable airborne infectious disease which can be passed from an infectious person to anyone with whom they are in long-term close contact, such as a family member or a work colleague. Drug treatment is highly effective, but medicines need to be taken daily for several months. Lack of adherence to treatment can pose significant risks to individuals and to public health. Patients who do not adhere fully or complete treatment may develop drug-resistant disease and are at high risk of relapse. Adherence to treatment can be challenging for people in high-risk and underserved groups. NICE guideline NG33 recommends a comprehensive, planned approach to optimising adherence, treatment completion and follow-up (see <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng33>).

Prescription charges may present a barrier to treatment adherence for some patients. [Statutory regulations](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/%2B/www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Communicablediseases/Tuberculosis/DH_078136) on prescription charges were amended in 2009 to ensure that “*No charge shall be made and recovered […] from a patient […] in respect of any drug supplied […] for the treatment of tuberculosis*”. However, these regulations only apply when medicines are supplied directly from TB clinics and hospital pharmacies or via PGD. To minimise barriers to adherence and ensure equity, the three CCGs responsible for commissioning healthcare services for County Durham & Darlington agreed to fund prescription charges for TB medicines dispensed in community pharmacies.

**Reimbursement of prescription charges**

* Whenever practical, the TB team will telephone the pharmacy to check stock availability and explain the arrangements for prescription charges before the patient presents a prescription
* The pharmacy will not collect a prescription charge for any anti-TB medication prescribed by the TB team [NB: charges should be collected for any other medicines prescribed]
* The pharmacy will ensure that Part 2 of the prescription charge declaration shows the value of charges due (although not collected)
* The pharmacy will return a completed invoice for reimbursement of the uncollected prescription charges (see appendix) to the commissioners c/o North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) Finance Department
* The TB team and community pharmacy will liaise as necessary regarding the continued supply of anti-TB medication

**TB team contact details**

TELEPHONE: 0191 374 0079 email: cdda-tr.tbteam@nhs.net

**Appendix – Community Pharmacy Invoice for Reimbursement of Prescription Charges for Anti-TB Medication**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Pharmacy name:** |  | Stamp |
| **Pharmacy address:** |  |
| **Information provided by:**  | Print Name: | Date : |

**Details of goods/ service provided**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Number of prescription charges** | **NHS prescription charge value** | **Total claim** |
|  |  |  |

**Pharmacy account details**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Sort code** | **Account number** | **Bank address** |
|  |  |  |

**Please do not include copies of prescriptions or patient identifiable information with invoices.**

Please return this form to:

NECS Finance Team [Community Pharmacy]

North of England Commissioning Support

Durham University Science Park

John Snow House

Stockton Road

Durham DH1 3YG

**OR** email to necsu.minorailments@nhs.net