

Quick Dose – Knowledge Capsule

Back to Basics – Maximising Dispensing Income

Expensive Items

Expensive Prescription Fee (EPF)

- Understanding, Submitting & Verifying Payment

What is the Expensive Prescription Fee?

- Applied to prescriptions where the **Net Ingredient Cost (NIC)** exceeds £100.
- **Fee amount:** 2% of the NIC. e.g., £150 NIC → £3 EPF.

How Is EPF Paid?

- **No separate claim form required.**
- NHSBSA identifies eligible prescriptions.

Contractor Actions to Ensure Payment

1. During Dispensing

- Flag items with **NIC > £100 (price found in drug tariff)**.
- Ensure **accurate quantity endorsement** on EPS or paper prescriptions.

2. After Submission

- Access your monthly **FP34 Schedule of Payments** via:
- [Information Services Portal \(ISP\)](#)
- Check against list of dispensed Expensive items from the previous month.

3. Verify EPF Payment

- Look for **“Expensive Prescription Fee”** as a separate line item.
- Use the **Prescription Item Report** to filter NIC > £100.
- Reconcile with internal records and endorsements.

4. Raise Queries if Needed

- Contact NHSBSA:  nhsbsa.prescriptionservices@nhsbsa.nhs.uk  0300 330 1349.

Key Reminder

EPF is paid **in addition to** standard fees — but only if the prescription is correctly submitted and endorsed.

Best Practice Tips

- **Flag high-cost items** during dispensing for monthly review.
- Maintain a **simple EPF tracker** to monitor expected vs. received payments.
- Include EPF checks in your **monthly reconciliation workflow**.