

In the new NHS, the Pricing Authority (NHS BSA), when it prices prescriptions, must be able to identify the cost centre in order to recharge the costs to the appropriate area. Therefore, from 1st April 2013, there is a new requirement to ensure prescriptions contain a prescriber code.

As of April, all supplies of drugs or appliances made on any NHS prescription form (except forms issued by a Dental Practitioner), may be returned to the contractor (as a referred back form) if there is no prescriber code(s) present. Where the contractor can identify the code, this should be added to the form and returned to the BSA in the next month's submission. If the contractor has been unsuccessful in identifying the code, the prescription should be endorsed to that effect, and then returned. In either case, when resubmitted, the prescription will be paid according to that month's rules.

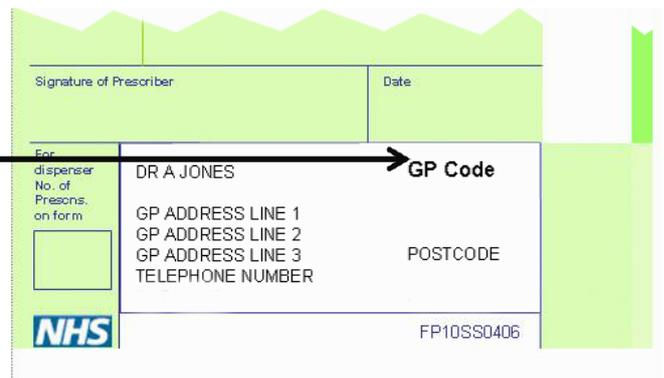
Contractors are therefore advised to check prescriptions at the time of dispensing, and attempt to identify and insert codes where any are missing. Where codes are missing, there will be a delay in payment for that prescription.

The NHS BSA have issued some FAQs which may prove useful: <http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/3931.aspx>

In order to assist pharmacy staff in checking for prescriber codes, some examples of where the prescriber code can be found are given below:

**Example 1 – standard prescriber details**

The prescriber code will be a numerical code located at the top of the box containing the prescriber's details and close to their name. It is often in bold and slighter larger than the rest of the text in this box.



Signature of Prescriber \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

For dispenser No. of Prescns. on form [ ]

**DR A JONES** → **GP Code**

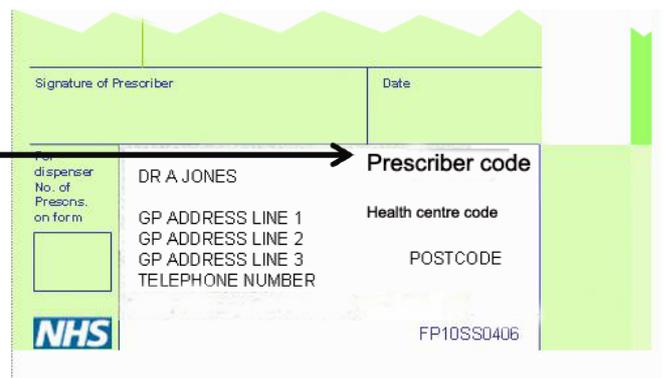
GP ADDRESS LINE 1  
GP ADDRESS LINE 2  
GP ADDRESS LINE 3  
TELEPHONE NUMBER

POSTCODE

**NHS** FP10SSD406

**Example 2 – independent prescriber details**

There are usually two codes – one for the prescriber and one for the medical centre they are affiliated to. The prescriber code will be the top code, next to the prescriber's name. It is often slighter larger than the rest of the text in this box.



Signature of Prescriber \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

For dispenser No. of Prescns. on form [ ]

**DR A JONES** → **Prescriber code**

GP ADDRESS LINE 1  
GP ADDRESS LINE 2  
GP ADDRESS LINE 3  
TELEPHONE NUMBER

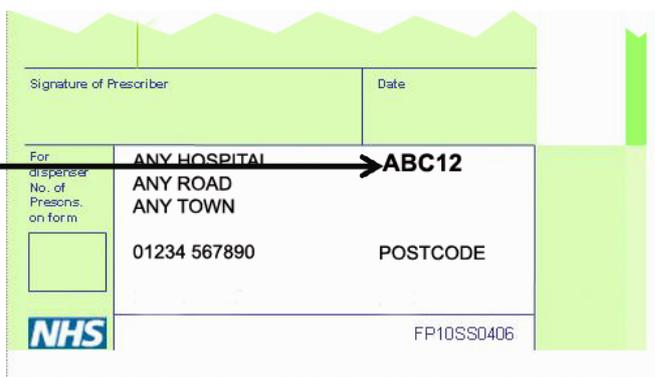
**Health centre code**

POSTCODE

**NHS** FP10SSD406

**Example 3 – hospital prescriber details**

The prescriber code will be located at the top of the box containing the prescriber's details. Hospital codes will contain letters as well as numbers. It is often in bold and slighter larger than the rest of the text in this box.



Signature of Prescriber \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

For dispenser No. of Prescns. on form [ ]

**ANY HOSPITAL** → **ABC12**

ANY ROAD  
ANY TOWN

01234 567890 POSTCODE

**NHS** FP10SSD406