Department of Health Consultation: 
Arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances and related services to Primary Care.

An overview of the new arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and urology appliances – and related services – in primary care has been published on the Department of Health website at:


Some of the key points are:

° The new arrangements will be implemented from 1 April 2010 subject to amendment Regulations being laid and amendment Directions being made.

° Dispensing Appliance Contractors (DACs) and Pharmacy Contractors (PCs) who dispense prescriptions can choose to offer either Essential Services or Essential plus either both or one of the Advanced Services.

° Essential services that must be provided include a repeat dispensing service, appropriate advice, a home delivery service and a supply of wipes and disposal bags.

° Advanced services include stoma appliance customisation and appliance use reviews (AURs).

° AURs must be conducted by a specialist nurse working on behalf of the DAC or PC or by a pharmacist, either in the home of the user or at the DAC or PC premises, where there must be a specially designated area for confidential consultation. Where possible, these specialists must maintain close contact with the NHS healthcare professional looking after the user.

° The new arrangements have been put in place to ensure that DACs operate within a similar clinical governance framework to PCs and that PCs offer a similar level of service as the DACs. The Department of Health lists the key aims as:

  − Maintain – and where applicable – improve patient care;
  − Ensure equitable payment to DACs and PCs for the provision of equivalent services;
  − Achieve transparency between what is paid for services and what is reimbursed for items.

° The detail is in the remuneration and reimbursement arrangements that apply to the contractors (DAC & PC).

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IA is a UK registered charity whose primary aim is to help people who have to undergo surgery which involves the removal of the colon and the creation of either an ileostomy or an ileo-anal pouch.