
D I R E C T I O N S

The Secretary of State gives the following Directions in exercise of the powers conferred by section 8, 13ZC and 272(7) and (8) of, and paragraph 2(7) of Schedule 12A to, the National Health Service Act 2006¹. The direction in paragraph 2 below, and the direction in paragraph 3 below to the extent that NHS England is required to do anything as a consequence of it, are considered by the Secretary of State to be in the public interest.

These Directions are annexed to the Memorandum of Understanding dated 1 November 2025 between:

- a. the Department of Health and Social Care;
- b. the Ministry of Defence;
- c. NHS England; and
- d. the NHS Business Services Authority,

in relation to the integration of Ministry of Defence prescription services into the NHS Prescription Service.

In these Directions, “NHS prescription” means an order for a prescription item that is included in what is a prescription form for the purposes of the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013.

1. The Secretary of State directs NHS England that the pharmaceutical remuneration for the supply of dispensed medicines, drugs or appliances in pursuance of an NHS prescription bearing a Ministry of Defence Organisational Data Service code is not to be included in a determination under paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 12A of the National Health Service Act 2006, and accordingly that remuneration is not be apportioned to Integrated Care Boards.
2. In lieu, the Secretary of State requires NHS England exercise its powers under paragraph 3(2) of that Schedule to charge the Ministry of Defence for the cost of the medicine, drug or appliance supplied and the fees associated with the dispensing of that medicine, drug or appliance.
3. The sharing of data for the purposes of this arrangement is to be in accordance with the relevant Information Standard.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

14 January 2026

Victoria Dare
Deputy Direct, Medicines Prescribing and Regulation
Department of Health and Social Care