

Dear GP Surgeries,

IMPORTANT SUTURE DRUG TARIFF INFORMATION

In 2012, ETHICON reviewed the Drug Tariff suture codes with members of the ASPC and made the necessary amendments to ensure that the offering meets the needs of GP surgeries across the UK. In 2018, project VANTAGE, to achieve Suture Portfolio Harmonisation, has caused several of these sutures on the GP Drug Tariff to undergo a change in code. Therefore, some of the sutures will no longer be identified, bought, prescribed or reimbursable under the personal administration payments under their old code.

There will be a transition period as old stock held by suppliers is depleted.

The following is a table of the complete range. Codes in **blue** are the replacement codes in 2018.

	Code	USP	Length	Needle Size	Needle Shape	Needle Point
Coated VICRYL™ rapide Suture						
All of the original tensile strength is lost by approximately 10-14 days post implantation	W9915	5-0	45cm	11mm	3/8 circle	Reverse cutting
	W9922	4-0	75cm	19mm	3/8 circle	Reverse cutting
	W9918	4-0	75cm	16mm	3/8 circle	Conventional cutting
	W9932	3-0	75cm	26mm	3/8 circle	Reverse cutting
	W9923	3-0	75cm	19mm	3/8 circle	Reverse cutting
MONOCRYL™ Suture						
All of the original tensile strength is essentially lost by 28 days post implantation	W3207	3-0	45cm	19mm	3/8 circle	Reverse cutting
	W3205	4-0	45cm	16mm	3/8 circle	Reverse cutting
Coated VICRYL™ PLUS Antibacterial Suture						
VICRYL* PLUS Sutures provide all the advantages of sutures with the additional benefits of preventing bacterial colonisation of the suture. PLUS Sutures provides a zone of inhibition that is effective against the pathogens that most frequently cause Surgical Site Infection (SSI) ¹						
All of the original tensile strength is lost by 5 weeks post implantation.	VCP683H	3-0	45cm	19mm	3/8 circle	Reverse cutting
	VCP497H	3-0	45cm	19mm	3/8 circle	Reverse cutting
Coated VICRYL™ Suture						
All of the original tensile strength is lost by 5 weeks post implantation	W9074	4-0	45cm	17mm	3/8 circle	Taper Point
	W9515T 1866G	4-0	45cm	19mm	3/8 circle	Reverse cutting
	W9516T	3-0	45cm	19mm	3/8 circle	Reverse cutting
PDS™ II Suture						
Absorption is minimal until approximately the 90 th day post implantation	W9873T	4-0	45cm	16mm	3/8 circle	Reverse cutting
ETHILON™ Suture						
Non-Absorbable	W1618T 1666H	5-0	45cm	19mm	3/8 circle	Reverse cutting
	W319 662G	4-0	45cm	19mm	3/8 circle	Reverse cutting
	W320 W320BG	3-0	45cm	26mm	3/8 circle	Reverse cutting
	W1615T	6-0	45cm	16mm	3/8 circle	Conventional cutting
	W1621T	3-0	45cm	19mm	3/8 circle	Reverse cutting
PROLENE™ Suture						
Non-Absorbable	W8020T	4-0	45cm	26mm	3/8 circle	Conventional cutting
DERMABOND™ Adhesive						
	APP6	DERMABOND* ProPen Topical Skin Adhesive (2-Octyl Cyanoacrylate)				

¹Ming X, et al. Surg Infect (Larchmt),2008;9:451.6