

Dear GP Surgeries,

IMPORTANT SUTURE DRUG TARIFF INFORMATION

ETHICON is pleased to announce that we have 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. The following is a table of the complete range. Codes highlighted in “red” are new and will be available from the September 2012 edition of the Drug Tariff.

	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	Reverse cutting
	W9515T	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	5-0	45cm	19mm	3/8 circle	Reverse cutting
	W319	4-0	45cm	19mm	3/8 circle	Reverse cutting
	W320	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)				

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

We hope that these changes will help you improve patient outcomes. If you require further information please contact our customer services team on 0800 0327 326.

Kind Regards,
Nikki Sidi ETHICON Business Manager

ETHICON

ASPC
ASSOCIATION OF SURGEONS IN PRIMARY CARE