

Dear fellow GPs,

The list of absorbable sutures which are claimable when used for the NHS minor surgery DES have changed in February 2024. The list of non-absorbable sutures is unchanged from 2018.

Therefore all “non-plus” coated vicryl, monocryl and PDS II which was previously claimable is no longer on the list. Instead, there is a choice of additional vicryl plus sutures which has been added. The “plus” refers to the inclusion of Irgacare MP (Triclosan) which has an antibacterial property.

Unfortunately, the NHSBSA has advised that as 3 months notice was given of the change on the Community Pharmacy England website, there is no interim period of grace during which any of the deleted sutures can be claimed for when used.



### **ABSORBABLE SUTURES:**

#### **1) Removed from the list in Feb 2024:**

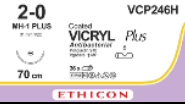






	Code	USP	Length	Needle Size	Needle Shape	Needle Point
<b>MONOCRYL™ Suture</b>						
All of the original tensile strength is essentially lost by 28 days post implantation	<b>W3207</b>	3-0	45cm	19mm	3/8 circle	Reverse cutting
	<b>W3205</b>	4-0	45cm	16mm	3/8 circle	Reverse cutting
<b>Coated VICRYL™ Suture</b>						
All of the original tensile strength is lost by 5 weeks post implantation	<b>W9074</b>	4-0	45cm	17mm	3/8 circle	Taper Point
	<b>W9515T</b>	4-0	45cm	19mm	3/8 circle	Reverse cutting
	<b>W9516T</b>	3-0	45cm	19mm	3/8 circle	Reverse cutting
<b>PDS™ II Suture</b>						
Absorption is minimal until approximately the 90 <sup>th</sup> day post implantation	<b>W9873T</b>	4-0	45cm	16mm	3/8 circle	Reverse cutting

#### **2) Remaining on the list in Feb 2024 (UNCHANGED)**

	Code	USP	Length	Needle Size	Needle Shape	Needle Point
<b>Coated VICRYL™ rapide Suture</b>						
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

<b>Coated VICRYL™ PLUS Antibacterial Suture</b>	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) <sup>1</sup>					
All of the original tensile strength is lost by 5 weeks post implantation.	<b>VCP683H</b>	3-0	45cm	19mm	3/8 circle 	Reverse cutting
	<b>VCP497H</b>	3-0	45cm	19mm	3/8 circle 	Reverse cutting

3) Added to the list in Feb 2024

	Code	USP	Length	Needle Size		Needle Point
<b>Coated VICRYL™ PLUS Antibacterial Suture</b>	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) <sup>1</sup>					
All of the original tensile strength is lost by 5 weeks post implantation.	<b>VCP246H</b>	2-0 (3.0 gauge)	70cm	31mm	2-0 	Non cutting (violet)
	<b>VCP317H</b>	2-0 (3.0 gauge)	70cm	26mm	2-0 	Non cutting (violet)
	<b>VCP245H</b>	3-0 (2.0 gauge)	70cm	31mm	3-0 	Non cutting (violet)
	<b>VCP442H</b>	3-0 (2.0 gauge)	70cm	24mm	3-0 	Reverse cutting (undyed)
	<b>VCP311H</b>	3-0 (2.0 gauge)	70cm	22mm	3-0 	Non cutting (violet)
	<b>VCP496ZH</b>	4-0 (1.5 gauge)	45cm	19mm	4-0 	Reverse cutting (undyed)
	<b>VCP9074H</b>	4-0 (1.5 gauge)	45cm	17mm	4-0 	Non cutting (violet)

## NON-ABSORBABLE SUTURES (UNCHANGED)

	Code	USP	Length	Needle Size	Needle Shape	Needle Point
<b>ETHILON™ Suture</b>						
Non-Absorbable	<b>1666H</b>	5-0	45cm	19mm	3/8 circle	Reverse cutting
	<b>662G</b>	4-0	45cm	19mm	3/8 circle	Reverse cutting
	<b>W320BG</b>	3-0	45cm	26mm	3/8 circle	Reverse cutting
	<b>1866G</b>	6-0	45cm	16mm	3/8 circle	Conventional cutting
	<b>W1621T</b>	3-0	45cm	19mm	3/8 circle	Reverse cutting
<b>PROLENE™ Suture</b>						
Non-Absorbable	<b>W8020T</b>	4-0	45cm	26mm	3/8 circle	Conventional cutting

Yours sincerely,  
Soon



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