

**IMPORTANT SUTURE DRUG TARIFF INFORMATION**

In 2012 Ethicon reviewed the Drug Tariff suture codes with the Association of Surgeons in Primary Care and made the necessary amendments to ensure that the offering meets the needs of GP surgeries across the UK. In 2018, the company launched Project Vantage with the aim of global Suture Portfolio Harmonisation and this has caused several of these sutures on the GP Drug Tariff to undergo a change in code. As a result, 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 but GP surgeries carrying out minor surgery under the Directed Enhanced Service will need to know the changes. The following is a table of the complete range. Codes highlighted in **red** were introduced in 2012 and those highlighted in **blue** are the replacement codes in 2018.

	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>MONOCRYL™ Suture</b>						
All of the original tensile strength is essentially lost by 28 days post implantation	<b>W3207</b>	<b>3-0</b>	<b>45cm</b>	<b>19mm</b>	<b>3/8 circle</b>	<b>Reverse cutting</b>
	<b>W3205</b>	<b>4-0</b>	<b>45cm</b>	<b>16mm</b>	<b>3/8 circle</b>	<b>Reverse cutting</b>
<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>	<b>3-0</b>	<b>45cm</b>	<b>19mm</b>	<b>3/8 circle</b>	<b>Reverse cutting</b>
	<b>VCP497H</b>	<b>3-0</b>	<b>45cm</b>	<b>19mm</b>	<b>3/8 circle</b>	<b>Reverse cutting</b>
<b>Coated VICRYL™ Suture</b>						
All of the original tensile strength is lost by 5 weeks post implantation	W9074	4-0	45cm	17mm	3/8 circle	<b>Taper Point</b>
	<b>W9515T</b> <b>1866G</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>	<b>4-0</b>	<b>45cm</b>	<b>16mm</b>	<b>3/8 circle</b>	<b>Reverse cutting</b>
<b>ETHILON™ Suture</b>						
Non-Absorbable	W1618T <b>1666H</b>	5-0	45cm	19mm	3/8 circle	Reverse cutting
	W319 <b>662G</b>	4-0	45cm	19mm	3/8 circle	Reverse cutting
	W320 <b>W320BG</b>	3-0	45cm	26mm	3/8 circle	Reverse cutting
	W1615T	6-0	45cm	16mm	3/8 circle	Conventional cutting
	<b>W1621T</b>	<b>3-0</b>	<b>45cm</b>	<b>19mm</b>	<b>3/8 circle</b>	<b>Reverse cutting</b>
<b>PROLENE™ Suture</b>						
Non-Absorbable	W8020T	4-0	45cm	26mm	3/8 circle	Conventional cutting
<b>DERMABOND™ Adhesive</b>						
	APP6	DERMABOND* ProPen Topical Skin Adhesive (2-Octyl Cyanoacrylate)				

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