



Daily Update

Thursday 6th August 2020

This daily update contains important information for community pharmacy teams about the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In today's update: Part 2 PQS details released; COVID-19 support fund for general practice; rollout of EPS Phase 4; PPE portal for emergency supplies.

Initial information on the Part 2 PQS for 2020/21

An initial outline of requirements for Part 2 of the 2020/21 Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) has been released.

While PSNC's work continues with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) to finalise the arrangements for the Part 2 scheme, we are now able to provide contractors with an early view of the domains and criteria that will need to be fulfilled to make a declaration in February 2021.

The scheme will formally commence in October 2020 and full details should be included in the September 2020 Drug Tariff. There will be five domains each with its own component criteria to achieve; all criteria in a domain must be completed to be able to claim a payment for that domain.

[Read a summary of the criteria](#)

COVID-19 support fund for general practice

[Details of a COVID-19 general practice support fund published this week](#) confirm that GP practices can claim for various additional costs incurred due to the pandemic. These include costs relating to bank holiday opening, care home services, absence cover, additional capacity and purchasing consumables required as a result of COVID-19. Whilst funding will be made available to all GP practices in England, they will need to submit claims to (and have them authorised by) their local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

Responding to news of this support fund for general practice, **PSNC Chief Executive Simon Dukes** said:

"It is encouraging to see HM Government taking steps to make good on its promise to give the NHS whatever it needs to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. Community pharmacies are paid differently to GP practices, and this arrangement for GPs is not part of any negotiated funding settlement, so it is difficult to extrapolate from it to our sector. That said, we do expect some of the principles of the GP arrangement to apply to pharmacy – we want community pharmacy contractors to be treated in the same way as all parts of the NHS ie to have all their additional costs brought about by the pandemic fully funded.

PSNC put a business case to Government and the NHS about the impact of the pandemic on community pharmacy and the need to cover contractors' costs earlier this year, and this has been supplemented with cost data being captured on an ongoing basis. Following an initial response from HM Treasury to our funding bid, this is now the subject of live negotiations primarily between PSNC, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I). The negotiations are continuing, running alongside other important discussions on key topics such as the CPCF five-year deal and flu vaccinations, and we will continue to update contractors on all of these as soon as we are able to."

Rollout of EPS Phase 4 for SystemOne and EMIS prescribers

NHS Digital is supporting rollout of EPS Phase 4 to many more practices to support patients in getting their medicines during what is expected to be a busy winter season for healthcare providers.

All TPP SystemOne and EMIS Web practices that use EPS (including dispensing practices) are due to go live in September 2020. As more GP practices go live with Phase 4 over the coming weeks, pharmacy teams will see the majority of hand-signed FP10s replaced by Phase 4 tokens.

[Learn more about the Phase 4 rollout](#)

Reminder: PPE portal for emergency supplies

Earlier this week the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) announced that community pharmacies will be able to order additional personal protective equipment (PPE) through the online portal **in an emergency**. Contractors will shortly receive an email invitation to their pharmacy's shared NHSmail inbox to register.

The PPE portal is an emergency top-up system so contractors are advised to continue using their business-as-usual and wholesaler routes in the first instance.

[Learn more about using the PPE portal](#)

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