



Daily Update

Monday 1st February 2021

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

In today's update: making PQS declarations; Pharmacy Advice Audit extended; new service payments guide.

Pharmacy Quality Scheme declarations

The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) has [notified pharmacy contractors](#) that there will be a delay in opening the Manage Your Service (MYS) portal for Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) declarations. Instead of opening on Monday 1st February 2021, the declaration window will now open **by Thursday 4th February 2021**.

To ensure contractors have as much time as possible to submit their claims, PSNC and NHS England and NHS Improvement have agreed that the PQS declaration window will be extended and will now close on **Monday 1st March 2021 at 23:59**. The timing of the PQS payment will not be affected by this change; contractors claiming for a PQS Part 2 payment will still receive their payment on 1st April 2021.

Ahead of the portal opening, contractors may wish to review the following PSNC Briefing which provides further information on how to make a declaration for the Scheme and the validation process for the Gateway criteria.

[PSNC Briefing 003/21: Pharmacy Quality Scheme – Completing your declaration](#)

Pharmacy Advice Audit 2021: Still time to get involved

Community pharmacy teams are reminded that they have another week to complete PSNC's 2021 Pharmacy Advice Audit. We are hugely grateful to anyone who has already taken part and have decided to extend the participation period to give as many pharmacies as possible the chance to share their data.

The data gathered will allow PSNC to quantify how many unfunded GP referrals are taking place, and it will tell us more about the impact that COVID-19 is having on pharmacy teams and on the advice that patients are seeking from you. This will provide crucial evidence for our ongoing funding discussions with HM Government and the NHS.

[Further information and resources on the audit](#)

Summary guide to new service payments

A number of new service payments for community pharmacy contractors have been announced in recent months for the Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) – GP referral pathway; the Discharge Medicines Service; the Pandemic Delivery Service and the Hepatitis C testing service. In addition, PSNC and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) have agreed a mechanism by which pharmacy contractors can claim reimbursement for their expenditure on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) purchased in 2020 (see also our [FAQs on the PPE claim process](#)).

PSNC has put together a table summarising these different payments covering how to claim and claim deadlines (if any); timing of payments; payment amounts and how these will appear on the Schedule of Payments.

[View our payments guide](#)

Have you seen our latest FAQs?

PSNC's website has a large number of answers to queries posed by pharmacy contractors, their teams and LPCs; these are updated on a regular basis. Recent additions on the topic **2020 COVID-19 PPE claims** include:

Q. I can't evidence all my PPE spend, given the difficulties in simply maintaining patient care in the pandemic. Is this a problem?

Backup evidence is not required if you are only making a standard claim – the standard claim amount has been calculated given the very difficult operating conditions during the pandemic and to avoid the need to rebuild a purchase history.

However, if the standard claim amount is not enough for the period up to the 31st October 2020, you can declare the higher amount as an exceptional claim but you must be able to provide evidence (if requested) to backup this amount.

Similarly, if you claim PPE cost for 1st November 2020 to 31st December 2020 (when many contractors were using the NHS portal to source this), you must be able to provide evidence for this amount (if requested). It is envisaged that evidencing spend for this much more recent period will also be more practical.

Exceptional claims must not include VAT or delivery charges.

If you make a standard claim for the first period and an exceptional claim for the second period, you only need to be able to provide evidence (on request) for the second period's exceptional claim. Further information on our [Pharmacy PPE Claim process FAQs page](#).

Keep up-to-date on COVID-19 with our hub page: psnc.org.uk/coronavirus

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14 Hosier Lane, London, EC1A 9LQ
Tel: 0203 1220 810 | Email: info@psnc.org.uk