



# News Alert

Friday 8th March 2019



## Community Pharmacy Funding Announcement: Interim Arrangements

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- From 1st April 2019 the current community pharmacy funding arrangements will continue on an interim basis, pending negotiations on the future
- Category M prices will increase by £10m monthly from 1st April
- Contractors can deliver a maximum of 200 MURs in the first six months of the year
- Pharmacy Access Scheme payments will continue to be made to eligible pharmacies
- No further Quality Payments scheme requirements or checkpoints have been set
- We hope that negotiations on future funding will conclude in time for changes to the CPCF to be made from October 2019

Community pharmacy funding levels will remain the same from 1st April 2019, set to deliver the current agreed funding envelope of £2.592 billion per year.

At the same time Category M prices will increase by £10 million per month, as the reductions to recover excess margin which had been in place since November come to an end.

PSNC and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) have agreed this as an interim arrangement pending the start of substantial negotiations on future pharmacy funding. The arrangement will apply until the negotiations have concluded.

The Single Activity Fee (SAF) will be set to continue to deliver funding at this rate from April; the level of the SAF is still under discussion with DHSC and as such may be adjusted later this year.

During the interim period, contractors will be paid for a maximum of 200 Medicines Use Reviews (MURs) from 1st April to 30th September 2019. This is because further discussions about the service will form part of the wider negotiations which we expect to begin in the next month.

No discussions have taken place on the future of the Quality Payments Scheme, so contractors do not need to do any work for a checkpoint until further notice. The future of the scheme will again be a part of the upcoming negotiations.

Pharmacies currently receiving Pharmacy Access Scheme (PhAS) payments will continue to do so with monthly payments from April 2019 being the same as those made in the last financial year.

The interim arrangements have been put in place to cover the period from April until negotiations on future pharmacy funding have concluded. We expect to begin these negotiations before Easter and hope that any substantive changes to the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) will be agreed in time to be implemented from October 2019.

For further information please visit: [ow.ly/kQfa30nYef2](https://ow.ly/kQfa30nYef2)

*Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee*



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