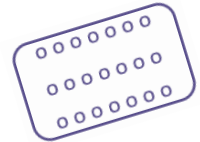


## Briefing for general practice teams – changes to the NHS community pharmacy contract in 2022/23

This PSNC Briefing provides information for general practice teams on the changes to the community pharmacy contract in 2022/23, including the revised Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS).

### Pharmacy Contraception Service Tier 1

In early 2023, a Pharmacy Contraception Service Tier 1 will be commissioned in pharmacies.



Initially the service will involve community pharmacists providing ongoing management of routine oral contraception that was initiated in general practice or a sexual health clinic; this is the Tier 1 service. The supplies will be authorised via a Patient Group Direction (PGD), with appropriate checks, such as the measurement of the patient's blood pressure and body mass index, being undertaken, where necessary.

Subject to a positive evaluation of the ongoing pilot, from 4th October 2023, Tier 2 of the service will be introduced, which will enable community pharmacists to also initiate oral contraception, via a PGD, and provide ongoing clinical checks and annual reviews.

Further information on the Pharmacy Contraception Service can be found at [psnc.org.uk/pcs](https://psnc.org.uk/pcs)

### New Medicine Service



From 19th April 2023, subject to positive evaluation of an ongoing pilot, the New Medicine Service (NMS) will be expanded to include antidepressants, to enable patients who are newly prescribed an antidepressant to receive extra support from their community pharmacist.

Further information on NMS can be found at: [psnc.org.uk/nms](https://psnc.org.uk/nms)

### Extensions to the Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS)

From 3rd October 2022, patients can access the CPCS through NHS 111 online for minor illness consultations, as well as the current referrals received for urgent medicines supplies (patients can also be referred for the service by phoning NHS 111).

From March 2023, the CPCS will be expanded to enable urgent and emergency care settings to also refer patients to a community pharmacist for a consultation for minor illness or urgent medicine supply.



Further information on CPCS can be found at: [psnc.org.uk/cpcs](https://psnc.org.uk/cpcs)

### Service development role for pharmacy technicians

To recognise the valuable skill mix that exists in community pharmacy, the service specifications for the Blood Pressure Check Service and the Smoking Cessation Service (SCS) will be amended to also allow delivery by pharmacy technicians.

## Pharmacy Quality Scheme

The PQS supports delivery of the NHS Long Term Plan and rewards community pharmacy owners that achieve quality criteria in the three domains of healthcare quality: clinical effectiveness, patient safety and patient experience.

Detailed information on the PQS can be found at [psnc.org.uk/pgs](https://psnc.org.uk/pgs), but the main requirements which community pharmacy teams will be aiming to meet, which are likely to be of interest to general practice teams, are listed below:

### Respiratory

Patients will be referred to an appropriate healthcare professional if:

- a child aged 5-15 does not have a spacer device when using a 'press and breathe' pressurised MDI for asthma;
- a patient aged 5 years or above does not have a personalised asthma action plan; and/or
- a patient has been prescribed three or more short-acting bronchodilator inhalers without any corticosteroid inhaler within a six-month period.



### Offer the New Medicine Service to all patients presenting with a new inhaler

All patients who present at the pharmacy with a prescription for a new inhaler (i.e. for the first time or changed to a new inhaler device) where patients would benefit from the service will be offered the NMS, which will include a check of their inhaler technique.

### Return of unwanted and unused inhalers



Pharmacy teams will be speaking to patients, their carer or representatives, for whom they have dispensed an inhaler about the environmental benefits of them returning all unwanted and used inhaler devices for safe and environmentally friendly disposal. This supports the NHS Long Term Plan's aim for a more sustainable NHS.

### Weight management

Pharmacy teams will be proactively discussing weight management with patients, and will be offering to weigh people, calculate their BMI, measure their waist circumference and support those who wish to lose weight through advice and referral to Local Authority funded tier 2 weight management services or the NHS Digital Weight Management Programme (where the individuals meet the criteria for referral).



### Antibiotic review



Pharmacy teams will be providing tailored advice to patients presenting at the pharmacy with a suspected urinary tract infection or upper respiratory tract infection without a prescription to help promote awareness of antimicrobial resistance and antimicrobial stewardship. If there are concerns about the patient's symptoms, which cannot be managed through advice or the purchase of an over the counter medicine, they will be referring patients to their GP.

### Cancer awareness

Pharmacy teams will be refreshing their knowledge on red flag signs and symptoms for cancer. Patients who present with red flag symptoms may be referred to their GP practice, depending on the severity and duration of symptoms.

### Palliative care

Pharmacy teams will have a greater awareness of locally commissioned services for palliative care including on call and delivery arrangements. In addition, they will ensure they have a list of local pharmacies stocking the critical medicines for palliative/end of life care in their area so they can aid a patient, relative/carer in obtaining a medicine as swiftly as possible by redirecting them to the nearest open community pharmacy that stocks this.