

# CPCF Settlement 2024/25 and 2025/26

## Highlights



- Over **£800 million** funding increase
- Total uplift of **more than 30%**
- Largest uplift** in funding across the whole of the NHS
- Government recognition** of funding gap as indicated by the Economic Analysis
- Firm Government commitment to **work towards a sustainable funding and operational model** for community pharmacies



## Funding

- Baseline annual CPCF funding of **£3.073 billion** for 2025/26
- £215 million** to fund Pharmacy First and other Primary Care Recovery Plan services
- £193 million write-off** of historic margin overspend
- 19p increase to Single Activity Fee to **£1.46 per item**
- Margin allowance increase to **£900 million** per year
- The **Economic Analysis** estimated full economic costs of the sector were **£5.063 billion**

## Pharmacy Quality Scheme

- A smaller than usual PQS in 2025/26, worth **£30 million**
- Aspiration payment of 75%** available to claim in May 2025
- Includes elements from previous schemes to **support embedding of quality improvements**



## Services



- £2 fee increase** for Pharmacy First Minor Illness and Clinical Pathway consultations to £17
- £7 fee increase** for the Pharmacy Contraception Service to £25
- Payment structure for NMS **simplified**
- New **intermediary band of £500** (for 20–29 consultations) added for the Pharmacy First monthly payment
- Phased introduction** of 'bundling' requirements from June 2025
- Depression** will be added to NMS from October 2025
- EHC** will be added to the Pharmacy Contraception Service from October 2025
- Legislative changes** will be made to support greater use of skill mix

*Some changes will not commence until service specifications and regulations have been updated; see our full briefing for more detail.*

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## Regulatory



- **No clinical audits** in 2025/26
- **Maximum of 4** health campaigns (2 national, 2 from ICB)
- More scope to **amend core opening hours** to be introduced
- Need for patients who pay NHS charge to sign prescriptions **to be removed**
- DSPs will no longer be able to provide Advanced and Enhanced services to patients **on the pharmacy premises**
- NMS subcontracting **to be stopped**

## Key commitments



Government **recognition** of funding gap as indicated by the Economic Analysis of NHS Pharmaceutical Services



**Pledge to review** Pharmacy First delivery and margin system



Negotiating points and Economic Analysis will **inform Government Spending Review**

## What this means



**Step-change** for the sector



**Vote of confidence** in its potential from new Government



Recognition of the scale of the funding gap and taking a **first step towards sustainability**



Settlement prioritises **core funding and service fee increases**



**Significant concessions won** on contractual easements