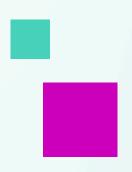
Pharmacy Settlement 2024/25 and 2025/26



Overview

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- Community pharmacy funding uplift of over £800 million
- 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

- The total funding available for the CPCF will be £3.073 billion in 2025/26.
- Much of this will be delivered to pharmacies through an increase of 19 pence in the Single Activity Fee – this fee is paid per item dispensed, and it will rise to £1.46.
- £215 million of additional services funding is also allocated for pharmacies to earn through services: Pharmacy First, blood pressure checks, and contraception.
- However, their remains a funding gap. The independent Economic Analysis shows that the costs of providing pharmaceutical services have outgrown the available funding.
- The difference between the funding available and the economic costs as shown by the analysis is over £2 billion.

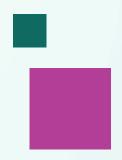
Services



- Pharmacy First, Blood Pressure Checks and Contraception services all continue, as does the New Medicine Service.
- Antidepressants will be added to the New Medicine Service from October 2025.
- Emergency contraception will be added to the Contraception service from October 2025.
- Work to improve coordination, and to uplift medicines margin, which are small steps in the right direction towards addressing medicine supply issues.



Pharmacy Settlement 2024/25 and 2025/26



Regulatory



- Significant progress has been made on regulatory matters, including giving pharmacies more scope to amend core opening hours.
- Government has also agreed to review margin distribution - to help improve equity of access to this core part of community pharmacies' funding.
- And Government has committed to looking at the timing of payments, to help ease the cashflow squeeze at the start of every month.
- Need for patients who pay NHS charge to sign prescriptions will be removed

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

Key commitments



Government recognition of funding gap



Pledge to review funding delivery and margin system



Commitment to working towards a sustainable funding and operational model



Adoption of appropriate actions arising from the RPS Medicines shortages: Solutions for Empty Shelves report.



With the highest funding uplift across the NHS, this settlement is a welcome first step towards sustainability and will bring some positive clinical service extensions for patients. But it does not fill the full pharmacy funding gap. Crucially, the settlement comes with a firm commitment from Government to work towards a sustainable funding and operating model for the sector, and we will continue to work with Government to ensure that this happens.

Janet Morrison

Chief Executive Community Pharmacy England







