



Pharmacy Quality Scheme 2025/26 – important dates for the diary

This Community Pharmacy England resource provides a list of the important dates for the Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) 2025/26.

Date	Why is this date important?
1st April 2025	PQS 2025/26 officially starts.
	Start date for the following criteria included in the Medicines Optimisation Domain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of a spacer in patients aged 5–15 years; and • Patients using three or more bronchodilators in six months.
1st May 2025	Aspiration payment window opens at 9am.
16th May 2025	Aspiration payment closes at 11.59pm.
1st July 2025	Aspiration payment is paid to pharmacy owners.
31st August 2025	Deadline* to have signed up to deliver the Pharmacy First Service and the Pharmacy Contraception service to meet the Gateway criterion.
1st September 2025	The Antimicrobial Stewardship – Pharmacy First consultations clinical audit can be started from this date (the 2025/26 clinical audit should be conducted from 1st September 2025 and completed no later than 31st March 2026).
2nd February 2026	Declaration window opens at 9am.
After the PQS declaration has been made (the declaration must be made between 9am on 2nd February 2026 and 11.59pm on	Pharmacy teams do not need to continue with the ‘Use of a spacer in patients aged 5–15 years’ quality criterion, as part of PQS.
	Pharmacy teams do not need to continue with the ‘Referrals for patients using three or more short-acting bronchodilator inhalers without any corticosteroid inhaler in six months’ quality criterion, as part of PQS.



27th February 2026)	
3rd February 2026	Deadline to start the Antimicrobial Stewardship – Pharmacy First consultations clinical audit (eight weeks until 31st March 2026, the deadline for ensuring the requirements of the quality criteria have been met).
27th February 2026	Declaration window closes at 11.59pm.
31st March 2026	Deadline for ensuring the requirements of the quality criteria (excluding those that need to be met by the day of the declaration (see above) have been met.
1st April 2026	Pharmacy owners will be paid their PQS payment.

*Further information for pharmacy owners who open or change ownership from 1st September 2025 is detailed in section 3.1 of the [Drug Tariff update](#) on PQS.