



A Brief Overview: Pharmacy Quality Scheme 2026/27

What is PQS?

The Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS), part of the CPCF, rewards community pharmacies for meeting quality criteria that support clinical effectiveness, patient safety, and patient experience. For 2026/27, existing criteria remain, with new measures added to support community pharmacist prescribing. A [Drug Tariff update](#) with additional information on the scheme for this year was published on 2 June 2026.

Payment details for the scheme

The 2026/27 scheme began on 2nd June 2026 and has a declaration period between 9am on 1st February 2027 and 11.59pm on 26th February 2027. Pharmacy owners will be able to claim an Aspiration payment if they wish to between 9am on 13th July 2026 and 11.59pm on 28th July 2026. You can make your declaration to the [NHSBSA using the MYS application](#).

Pharmacy owners must submit evidence they have met these domains by 31st March 2027.

The total funding for PQS 2026/27 is £20 million. The funding will be divided between qualifying pharmacies based on the number of points they have achieved up to a maximum £128.40 per point. There is a total of 30 points for Domains 1 and 2.

Gateway criterion

There are three parts to the gateway criterion that must be met:

- PEOC questionnaire
- Pharmacy palliative care medication stockholder
- PEOC action plan

To qualify for the Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) 2026/27 payment, pharmacy owners must meet all three parts of the gateway criterion. Further details on the three parts can be found below. You can find full details of the gateway criterion by [clicking here](#).

Training requirements

Pharmacy owners and pharmacy team members should note that there is a requirement in the 2026/27 Scheme that may mean that staff are required to repeat training and an e-assessment that they have completed previously.



Domain 1 – Medicines optimisation and safety

There are two quality criteria in Domain 1 – Medicines optimisation & patient safety. Both quality criteria need to be met to be eligible to claim payment for the domain. The quality criteria are:

- Respiratory, asthma guidelines; and
Safe Management of urgent repeat medicines supply requests and referrals.

Further details on the quality criteria in Domain 1 – Medicines optimisation & patient safety (including links to appropriate CPPE courses and requirements) can be found by [clicking here](#).

Domain 2 – Professional practice

There is one quality criterion in Domain 2 – Professional practice. This quality criterion needs to be met to be eligible to claim payment for the domain. The quality criterion is Clinical services audit.

Pharmacy owners must ensure a pharmacist completes a clinical audit of Pharmacy First clinical pathway consultations and develops an action plan to improve practice. The pharmacist must also take part in a 1–2 hour peer discussion with a 'buddy' pharmacist to review the audit findings and action plan.

Further details of the 2026/27 clinical audit will be published and reported on the MYS data collection tool, which will be accessible from the [NHSBSA website](#) from August 2026.

Resources to support delivery

- [Pharmacy Quality Scheme 2026/27 – Important dates for the diary](#)– this provides a list of the important dates for the 2026/27 PQS.
- [Pharmacy Quality Scheme 2026/27 checklist](#) – a checklist of the gateway criterion and quality criteria for the 2026/27 PQS.
- [Action plan template 2026/27 \(PDF\)](#)– to support the creation of an action plan required to meet the requirements of the PQS criteria.
- [Action plan template 2026/27 \(Word\)](#)
- [Training record sheet 2026/27 \(PDF\)](#) – a template which can be used to record details of those staff members who have satisfactorily completed the required training and associated assessment.
- [Training record sheet 2026/27 \(Word\)](#)
- [Briefing on the Urgent supply of medicines and appliances strand of Pharmacy First](#) – this briefing provides detailed information on the Urgent supply of medicines and appliances strand of Pharmacy First