

PQS 2025/26

Essential Dates & Actions for a Successful Claim

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Gateway Criterion

To participate, all pharmacies must:

- Register for Pharmacy First and Pharmacy Contraception Service **by 31 August 2025**
- Notify NHS England of intention to provide service by completion of registration through the NHSBSA's [MYS portal](#)
- Once registered, you must update pharmacy's service details on [NHS Profile Manager](#)
- Remain registered **until 31 March 2026**

Important: If you deregister during the scheme, even briefly, you will be ineligible for payment.

Links

- ☐ [CPE Pharmacy First Service](#)
 - ☐ [Implementation Checklist](#)
- ☐ [CPE Pharmacy Contraception Service](#)
 - ☐ [Implementation Checklist](#)

Medicines Optimisation (30 points)

Training	Pharmacist	Pharmacy Technician
CPPE E-Learning – Consulting with people with mental health problems	✓	
CPPE E-Learning & E-Assessment – Emergency Contraception	✓	✓*

- ❑ Palliative and End of Life Care

Action Plan

- ❑ Respiratory
 - ❑ Use of a Spacer in Patients Aged 5-15 Years
 - ❑ Referrals for patients using 3 or more short-acting bronchodilator inhalers in 6 months

Patient Safety (20 points)

Training	Pharmacist	Pharmacy Technician
CPPE E-Learning & E-assessment – Sepsis	✓	✓
Enhanced DBS Checks	✓	✓

- ❑ Antimicrobial Stewardship - Pharmacy First consultations - Clinical Audit

Pharmacy Quality Scheme 2025/26 Action and Evidence Portfolio Workbook

April 2025, version 2

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Links

[CPE PQS Scheme 2025/26 Action and Evidence Portfolio Workbook](#)



April – June 2025

1 April

PQS start date

Spacer use criteria begins (patients aged 5–15 years)
Bronchodilator use criteria begins (3+ in 6 months)

1 May

Aspiration payment window opens

16 May

Aspiration payment window closes

June

If you haven't done so already, sign up to

- Pharmacy First Service
- Pharmacy Contraception Service

to meet the Gateway criterion

Aspiration Payment

- Claim period: **1 – 16 May 2025**.
- Receive early payment: £57.50 per point for up to 75% of intended points.
- Reconciled after final declaration in April 2026.
- Pharmacies that claim will have their aspiration payment paid on 1 July 2025.

Respiratory: Spacer Use (Ages 5–15)

- Check that patients aged 5-15 have a **spacer** if using a press and breathe MDI.
- Refer to prescriber if they don't.
- Keep records in the PMR.

Even if no patients are found, you must show evidence of a process being in place.

Links

- ☐ [CPE Guidance- Asthma Referrals](#)
- ☐ GP Referral Form: [PDF](#) / [Word](#)
- ☐ [Data Collection Form](#)

Respiratory: Inhaler Referrals

- Identify patients using 3+ short-acting bronchodilator inhalers within 6 months, without corticosteroids
- Refer to an appropriate healthcare professional

Even if no patients are found, you must show evidence of a process being in place.

Links

- ☐ [CPE Guidance- Asthma Referrals](#)
- ☐ [CPE Flowchart](#)
- ☐ GP Referral Form: [PDF](#) / [Word](#)
- ☐ [Data Collection Form](#)



July – September 2025

1 July

Aspiration payment is paid to pharmacy owners if claim is submitted by deadline of 16 May

August

CPPE Consulting with People with Mental Health E-Learning

31 August

Deadline to sign up for:

- Pharmacy First Service
- Pharmacy Contraception Service

to meet the Gateway criterion

1 September

Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Audit start date

September

CPPE Emergency Contraception Training & E-assessment
DBS Check

Antimicrobial Stewardship – Clinical Audit

- Audit clinical advice and consultations provided to patients scoring FeverPAIN 0–3 patients via Pharmacy First Sore Throat from 1 Sept 2025 – 31 Mar 2026.
- Minimum of 10 patients or over (4–8 weeks).
- Submit anonymised data to NHS England via MYS.

Where no patients are identified for the audit, payment is still eligible if:

- You can evidence you have robustly attempted to identify suitable patients
- You declare no suitable patients identified on MYS data tool by 31 March 2026

Enhanced DBS Checks

- Must be completed for all pharmacists and pharmacy technicians
- A certificate issued or a status check undertaken using the DBS update service within the last three years (between 1 April 2023 and end of 31 March 2026)
- Evidence must be available by 31 March 2026 and kept for 3 years

Pharmacy professional's name	Undertaken by day of the declaration	Undertaken by 31st March 2026	Date completed
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Enhanced DBS Checks

- CPH strongly encourage that once you have the enhanced DBS check, to then register for the [DBS update service](#) within 30 days. Cheaper than renewing on a three yearly basis with no additional administration costs.
- We have been made aware of two national trade organisations who may offer support for enhanced DBS certificates:
 - [National Pharmacy Association](#)
 - [Numark](#)

Links

- ☐ [DBS Check Guidance for Employers](#)
- ☐ [DBS Update Service](#)

CPPE Consulting with People with Mental Health E-Learning

- All **pharmacists** must complete CPPE Mental Health e-learning between April 2022 – March 2026.
- No e-assessment, but completion must be confirmed and certificate of study downloaded.

Certificates must be stored for 3 years for verification.

Links

- ❑ [CPPE E-learning: Consulting with people with mental health problems](#)
- ❑ Training Record Sheet: [PDF](#) / [Word](#)

CPPE Emergency Contraception Training & E-assessment

- Required for **all registered pharmacy professionals** intending to provide the service
- Must be completed between **April 2023 – March 2026**
- Evidence of completion must be retained

Links

- ❑ [CPPE E-learning: Emergency Contraception](#)
- ❑ [CPPE E-assessment: Emergency Contraception \(2025\)](#)
- ❑ Training Record Sheet: [PDF](#) / [Word](#)



October – December 2025

Oct

CPPE Sepsis Training & Assessment

Nov

Palliative Care Action Plan

CPPE Sepsis Training & E-Assessment

- **All registered pharmacy professionals** must complete CPPE Sepsis training and e-assessment between April 2024–March 2026.
- Keep a copy of the certificate for each staff member.

Links

- ❑ [CPPE Sepsis Online Training](#)
- ❑ [CPPE Sepsis E-Assessment](#)
- ❑ Training Record Sheet: [PDF](#) / [Word](#)

Palliative Care Action Plan

Action plan must include:

- Awareness of locally commissioned service for palliative care
- List of local pharmacies with stock (noting the ability to check the DoS to find pharmacies stocking these medicine)
- Details for where parenteral haloperidol can be accessed locally

HWE ICB commissioned service

- Other support service contacts for patients, carers, and families

Plan must be:

- In place by 31 March 2026
- Available for inspection
- Retained for 3 years for PPV

Palliative Care Action Plan

- All contractors must have an action plan, even if they do not routinely stock the 16 critical palliative medicines or parenteral haloperidol.
- If the pharmacy does stock the 16 palliative and end of life critical medicines, DoS will need to have been updated to indicate that the pharmacy is a 'Pharmacy palliative care medication stockholder' by 31 March 2026.

Links

- ❑ Action Plan Template: [PDF](#) / [Word](#)
- ❑ [HWE Immediate Access to Emergency Medicines](#)
- ❑ [HWE Immediate Access to Emergency Medicines – Selected Pharmacies](#)
- ❑ [NHS Service Finder](#)
- ❑ [NHS Profile Manager](#)
- ❑ Regional DoS Lead: oe.dos@eastamb.nhs.uk



January – April 2026

2 February

PQS declaration window opens

3 February

Final date to start audit

Eight weeks until 31st March 2026, the deadline for ensuring the requirements of the quality criteria have been met

27 February

PQS declaration window closes

Final date to submit your claim for MYS to claim payment

31 March

FINAL deadline to meet the requirements of the domains for PQS

1 April

Pharmacy owners will be paid their PQS payment upon what was claimed on MYS by the deadline date.

Making The Final Declaration

- Declaration period: **2 – 27 February 2026.**
- Claim on MYS.
- Must declare full compliance with criteria in any domain you're claiming for.
- No declaration = no payment.
- Late submissions WILL NOT be accepted.

Medicines Optimisation

Palliative and
End of Life
Care **Action
Plan**

Respiratory

CPPE
Consulting
with people
with mental
health
problems

CPPE
Emergency
Contraception

All four must be completed to claim this domain's points.

Patient Safety

Antimicrobial
Stewardship Audit

CPPE Sepsis

Enhanced DBS
Checks

All three must be completed to claim this domain's points.

Points & Banding Explained

- Total PQS funding: £30 million
- Funding is divided based on points achieved
- Maximum of £115 per point
- Minimum of £57.50 per point (if all contractors claim max points)
- Total payment range = £2,875 – £5,750
- Final payment depends on:
 - ☐ Domains claimed
 - ☐ Payment band

Band	Band 1	Band 2
Annual Items	0-1,800	1,801 and above
Medicines Optimisation	1.50	30.00
Patient Safety	1.00	20.00
Total	2.50	50.00

*Pharmacy owners, who are eligible for the Pharmacy Access Scheme (PhAS), are automatically placed in band 2.

Points & Banding Explained

An example where aspiration payment has been claimed:

PQS Band for 2025/26	Band 2
Maximum 'Aspiration points' which can be paid	37.5
Points intended to deliver, as per Aspiration payment declaration	50
Aspiration payment (paid at £57.50 per aspiration point)	£2,156.25
Points actually delivered, as per 2025/2026 declaration (made between 9am on 2nd February 2026 and 11.59pm on 27th February 2026)	50
Reconciliation payment (1st April 2026) (based on final value of £80 per point)	£1,843.75
Total 2025/26 PQS payment	£4,000

If no aspiration payment has been claimed, full payment will be made on 1 April following a successful claim.

Post Payment Verification (PPV)

All evidence for PQS must be available for inspection from the end of 31st March 2026 at premises level and must be retained for 3 years for PPV purposes.

Do not claim for activity you have not done and cannot hold evidence for. It will be considered an overpayment and WILL be reclaimed.

Additional Resources

Drug Tariff Update Part VIIA: [Drug Tariff - Pharmacy Quality Scheme \(PDF 284KB\)](#)

CPE PQS Hub: <https://cpe.org.uk/quality-and-regulations/pharmacy-quality-scheme/>

CPE PQS Action and Evidence Workbook: <https://cpe.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/PQS-Action-Evidence-Workbook-2025-26-v2.pdf>

CPPE PQS: <https://www.cppe.ac.uk/services/pharmacy-quality-scheme>

MYS Portal: <https://manage-your-service-pharmacy.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-prescription-services-submissions/login>

FAQs

Q. How long should I retain PQS paperwork/records for post-payment verification (PPV) purposes?

- CPE recommends that PQS paperwork/records are retained for three years following submission of the PQS declaration for PPV purposes. Pharmacy owners may need to retain paperwork and records for longer periods for reasons other than PPV.

Q. Do I need to retain physical copies of the PQS documents for the three-year retention period?

- No, you do not necessarily need to retain physical copies of the PQS documents for the three year retention period. Electronic records are acceptable, provided they are clearly legible, complete, and can be readily accessed if requested during a post-payment verification (PPV). It is important to ensure that any digital storage method used is secure and compliant with data protection requirements.

FAQs

Q. How will the NHSBSA check my PQS claim for Post-Payment Verification (PPV)?

- A. The NHSBSA may contact you to request evidence supporting your PQS declaration. They will review this evidence to ensure it meets the PQS requirements. If it's insufficient or not provided, you may have to repay the funding. Keep all records for at least **three years**. More information: [Post-Payment Verification \(PPV\)](#)

Q. What do I claim for as part of my aspiration payment?

- If pharmacy owners wish to claim for an Aspiration payment, they should review the [requirements of the PQS 2025/26](#), decide which domains they intend to meet when they make their PQS declaration.

FAQs

Q. Is the DBS Update Service adequate for compliance purposes?

- A. Following discussions with DHSC and NHS England regarding the use of DBS update service to meet the PQS DBS requirement, DHSC has added additional wording to the PQS wording in Part VIIA of the May Drug Tariff to clarify that this is acceptable.



Regularising Enhanced DBS Checks for registered pharmacy professionals

By the end of 31 March 2026, all registered pharmacy professionals working at the pharmacy on the day of the declaration must have undertaken an enhanced DBS check to support the safe provision of clinical services, with a certificate issued or a status check undertaken using the DBS update service within the last three years (between 1 April 2023 and end of 31 March 2026), to regularise the frequency of performing these checks in line with other healthcare professionals in the NHS.

Contractors will need to have evidence to demonstrate that all registered pharmacy professionals working at the pharmacy on the day of the declaration must have requested an enhanced DBS check to support the safe provision of clinical services, with a certificate issued within the last three years (between 1 April 2023 and end of 31 March 2026). This evidence must be available for inspection from the end of 31 March 2026 at premises level and must be retained for 3 years for PPV purposes.

Questions

The slide features a large blue rectangle in the center with the word "Questions" in white. The background is a light teal gradient. Various colored squares (orange, purple, blue, green) are scattered around the central rectangle, some overlapping it. A large green square is in the bottom-left corner, and a blue square with an orange square on top is in the top-right corner.