

## **Drug Tariff Part VIC - Payment for Essential Services (Pharmacy Contractors)**

### **Reimbursement of Covid-19 costs incurred by pharmacy contractors between 1 March 2020 and 31 March 2021 and recovery of the uplift to the advance payments received between 1 April 2020 and 1 July 2020 (England only)**

15.10 Claims will be reviewed before or following payment. Where the evidence submitted does not support the claim, the payment will either be reduced before it is made to the contractor or, if payment has taken place, the over-payment will be recovered from the contractor's next monthly payment. If a contractor does not agree with the reduction of their payment or the recovery of the difference between the amount claimed and the amount paid, then they should notify the NHSBSA that they want the amount of the claim that has not been assessed as payable, or any part of that amount, to be the subject of an independent internal review within 30 days from the date of receipt of the letter from the NHSBSA setting out the review process. A contractor should specify in the notification why they disagree with the amount of the claim not payable, including why they believe that the evidence provided supports a higher claim and/or why they believe any rejected costs are in scope of the claims process. A contractor may provide additional evidence to support the independent review. The independent review will only look at the part of the claim that the contractor states is in dispute. The NHSBSA will inform the contractor of the outcome of the independent review and will confirm the additional amount of the claim payable following independent review. If following independent review, a contractor still disagrees with the amount of the claim payable then they can appeal the disputed amount to the Secretary of State under section 9(6) of the NHS Act 2006 within 30 days from the date of receipt of the letter from the NHSBSA informing the contractor of the outcome of the independent review and setting out the appeal process. Claims reviewed before payment in full will be made will include:

- (a) Claims exceeding one third of annual NHS income in 2020/21 for contractors who opened after March 2019 or an average of 2019/20 and 2020/21 income for contractors who opened before March 2019;
- (b) Claims where initial review identifies a risk of a potential error that could result in a significant overpayment.

Partial payment to contractors whose claims fall under categories 15.10a and 15.10b will be made to ensure the recovery of Covid-19 advance during the verification of these claims does not unreasonably affect contractor's cashflow.