
PHARMACY QUALITY SCHEME (ENGLAND)

Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) 2025/26

3. Payment for PQS 2025/26

- 3.1 Pharmacy contractors must claim payment for the PQS 2025/26 quality domains during the declaration period which is between 09:00 on 2 February 2026 and 23:59 on 27 February 2026. Contractors must have evidence to demonstrate meeting the gateway criterion* and the domains that they have claimed for by the end of 31 March 2026.

* Contractors, who opened from 1 September 2025 up until 31 December 2025 or had a change of ownership resulting in a new ODS code, must sign up to deliver the Pharmacy First Service and Pharmacy Contraception service, within two weeks of opening under the new ODS code, and remain registered until the end of the scheme, 31 March 2026 to qualify for payment for PQS 2025/26.

Contractors, who opened or had a change of ownership from 1 January 2026 resulting in a new ODS code will not be eligible for the gateway criteria and will not qualify for payment for PQS 2025/26.

- 3.2 Pharmacy contractors will need to make a declaration to the NHSBSA using the MYS application. MYS is available at <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/dispensing-contractors-information/manage-your-service-mys>.

- 3.3 Completing the declaration is an essential requirement for meeting the scheme requirements. Undertaking some or all the scheme requirements without submitting the final declaration will not enable a payment to be made. MYS allows a contractor to start their declaration and then return to it later should this be necessary. Where a declaration has been started but not submitted, it will not be eligible for payment. Contractors who successfully complete their declaration will receive a declaration confirmation email as evidence that their declaration has been successful. This email must be provided if a contractor needs to demonstrate that they have successfully completed their declaration. Should a contractor not receive this declaration confirmation email within one hour of submitting their declaration then, after checking their junk email folder, they should email the provider assurance team at pharmacysupport@nhsbsa.nhs.uk immediately to make them aware of the issue.

- 3.4 The domain(s) have a designated maximum number of points dependent on the participating contractor's total prescription volume during the period from February 2024 to January 2025**/**/**/**** according to the NHSBSA's payment data as shown in Table 3.

* Contractors, who opened part way through this period, will have their total prescription volume determined as the average number of prescriptions dispensed per month during the full months they were open from February 2024 to January 2025 multiplied by 12. Please note that change in ownership for the purpose of the PQS banding only is not treated as a new contractor.

** Contractors, who opened after 1 February 2025, will be placed in band 2 for PQS 2025/26. Please note that change in ownership for the purpose of the PQS banding only is not treated as a new contractor.

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

**** Where two pharmacies have consolidated, in accordance with Regulation 26A, since 1 February 2024, the total prescription volume of the continuing pharmacy will be determined as the item volume for the continuing pharmacy only. The item volume for the closing pharmacy will not be attributed to the continuing pharmacy. This is not the same as a change in ownership situation.

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Table 3. Maximum number of points per domain

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

3.5 The total funding for PQS 2025/26 is £30 million. The funding will be divided between qualifying pharmacies based on the number of points they have achieved up to a maximum £115.00 per point. Each point will have a minimum value of £57.50, based on all contractors achieving maximum points. Payments will be made to eligible contractors depending on the band they are placed in, how many domains they have declared they are meeting, and hence points claimed.

3.6 For example:
Assuming the number of contractors in each band and the average number of points achieved by each contractor is as set out in Table 4, we can calculate how many points in total were delivered and therefore the value of each point:

Table 4

	Number of contractors	Average points per contractor
Band 1	13	2
Band 2	8,347	30

The total number of points is 250,436 which means £30 million would deliver a value per point of £119.79.

However, each point is capped at a total of £115.00. So, the contractor would receive £115.00 per point they earned. This would mean that around £1.2 million (out of the £30 million) would remain undelivered through the PQS and would be taken into account in the delivery of the overall Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework funding agreement.