



CPCF 2024/25 & 2025/26

Communication No 2 (21st May 2025) – Quality Payments Scheme 25/26

In this series of comms we will look at subjects pertaining to the new contract announced in April. This week we will look at Quality Payments Scheme 25/26. It is a much-reduced PQS comprised of one gateway and two domains. Full details of these are available [here](#). More information can also be found on [CPE](#) and we will be updating our website with the most up-to-date information for the Palliative Care provisions. Link to [CPHW local services](#) and [CPA local services pages](#) to find most recent list of providers of locally commissioned stock holding schemes.

One Gateway: Contractors must have signed up to deliver the **Pharmacy First Service** and the **Pharmacy Contraception service** by the end of 31 August 2025 and remain registered for both services until the end of the scheme, 31 March 2026. ([full details in drug tariff](#))

Two Domains: Medicines Optimisation and Patient Safety. The contractor must declare between 09:00 on 2 February 2026 and 23:59 on 27 February 2026 as having met and have evidence demonstrating meeting one or more of the domains. ([full details in drug tariff](#))

The Domains

1. Medicines Optimisation

- a. **Palliative Care and end of life care action plan.** Contractor must have updated NHS Profile Manager to show they are a 'Pharmacy palliative care medication stockholder' if they routinely hold the 16 palliative and end of life critical medicines and can support local access to parenteral haloperidol. Pharmacies must have end of life care action plans (pharmacies with plans from the 24/25 QPS need to be updated)
- b. **Consulting with people with mental health problems –** [see CPPE training requirement summary box below](#)
- c. **Respiratory**
 - i. **Use of a spacer in patients aged 5-11:** By the end of 31 March 2026, the pharmacy must be able to evidence that between 1 April 2025 and the day of the declaration they have:
 - checked that all children aged 5 to 15 (inclusive) prescribed a press and breathe pressurised MDI for asthma have a spacer device, where appropriate, in line with NICE TA38 and
 - referred children aged 5 to 15 (inclusive) with asthma to an appropriate healthcare professional where this is not the case.
 - ii. **Referrals for patients using 3 or more short-acting bronchodilator inhalers in 6 months.** By the end of 31 March 2026, the pharmacy must be able to evidence



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that between 1 April 2025 and the day of the declaration that patients with asthma, for whom three or more short-acting bronchodilator inhalers were dispensed without any corticosteroid inhaler within a six-month period have, since the last review point, been referred to an appropriate healthcare professional for an asthma review.

- d. **Emergency Contraception** - CPPE Learning & E-Assessment – [see CPPE training requirement summary box below](#)

2. Patient Safety

- a. **Antimicrobial Stewardship - Pharmacy First consultations** - Contractors must complete a clinical audit, which will concern the clinical advice and consultations provided to patients scoring FeverPAIN 0-3 on the Pharmacy First Sore Throat clinical pathway. The 2025/26 clinical audit should be conducted from 1st September 2025 and completed no later than 31st March 2026. The audit must be carried out with a minimum of 10 patients over four weeks, or over an eight-week period if 10 patients are not achieved. Where no patients are identified for the audit, the contractor will still be eligible for payment if they have robustly tried to identify suitable patients during the audit period.
- b. **Sepsis - CPPE Learning & E-assessment** – [see CPPE training requirement summary box below](#).

E-learning Required for PQS

Programme (estimated time to complete per person)	Validity period	Options
<i>Consulting with people with mental health problems e-learning</i> (3hrs) -	Pharmacists, completed between 01/04/2022 and 31/03/2026	Access the learning programme
<i>Emergency contraception e-learning</i> (3hrs)	Pharmacists and any Pharmacy Technicians (intending to provide the Pharmacy	Access the learning programme



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Emergency contraception e-assessment (45mins)	Contraception Service) completed between 01/04/2023 and 31/03/2026	Access the assessment
Early recognition of sepsis - community setting e-learning (1hr)	Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians completed between 01/04/2024 and 31/03/2026	Access the learning programme
Early recognition of sepsis - hospital setting e-learning (1hr)		Access the learning programme
Early recognition of sepsis - general practice setting e-learning (1hr)		Access the learning programme
Early recognition of sepsis - children e-learning (1hr)		Access the learning programme
Early recognition of sepsis - pregnancy e-learning (1hr)		Access the learning programme
Early recognition of sepsis - care home setting e-learning (1hr)		Access the learning programme
Sepsis e-assessment (45mins)		Access the assessment