

Welcome to the September 2021 CPWY Committee Blog!

### *Opportunity Knocks...*

It seems like we've had information overload over the past few weeks; further details on the PQS, extension to the LFD service, preparation for flu, back and forth on COVID boosters, and the **very eagerly anticipated detail on the extension of the New Medicine Service (NMS)**. All this information usually drops into our inboxes at the customary 11<sup>th</sup> hour leaving little time to plan and prepare. Don't worry, my only focus in this blog post will be the extension of the NMS – my hope is after reading my short blog, you'll share my excitement at the expansion of a great service that will transform how this is delivered.

The September Drug Tariff was released last week which included the expected detail on the extension of the NMS: we've now got more conditions, more medication and therefore a much wider range of potentially eligible patients. You can view on the [PSNC website](#) the extended list of both drugs and conditions we can now offer this service for; the service delivery itself remains the same (there is a small increase in maximum claims per month) however the structure in which we deliver this isn't changing.

As a pharmacist, I've always felt that the NMS allows us to play such a pivotal role in the early stages of care of a patient on a new medicine. It's easily overlooked, however put yourselves in the patient's shoes for a moment – you've just been prescribed something with quite often a bizarre sounding name (quite likely now over the phone) which you'll likely be taking for the rest of your life, you don't understand anything in the leaflet or may even struggle to get the information online – *who do you call? Where do you turn for that reliable, accessible information, advice and support?* NMS is an excellent service that not only allows us to build and develop that special patient-pharmacist relationship, it also greatly improves the overall care for the patient. A service we can now provide to even more patients, with a wider range of healthcare conditions and very commonly prescribed medication.

As well as an expansion of the usual service as we know it, there is also an introduction of something called the 'NMS Catch-Up' Service. It's been a really challenging 18 months in both community pharmacy and General Practice, let's be honest we know we've had patients slipping through the net. Patients that haven't had those supportive conversations or the usual care, advice and follow up. For these patients whereby an NMS has essentially been 'missed' since last April, can now receive a 'Catch-Up' NMS, even if it is a medicine on the new and improved expanded list.

There is even recognition that through the pandemic, patients potentially didn't use their usual regular pharmacy, and so the patient doesn't need to have had the new medicine dispensed from the pharmacy delivering the 'Catch-Up' NMS.

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The expansion of the NMS service certainly feels like we're on one of the climbs on the community pharmacy roller-coaster. It's always been within our gift to continually demonstrate the impact we have on patient care, this expansion feels like a vote of confidence, recognition of that impact, and something which we can certainly continue to build on.

**Let's take this opportunity with both hands.**

**Faisal Ali**

**[Committee Member of Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire](#)**

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### **NMS Useful Links**

- [PSNC NMS pages](#)
- [CPWY NMS pages](#)