
Pharmacy Quality Scheme 2023/24:

Bulletin 4 – Gateway Criteria, Medicines Safety & Optimisation Domain and Training Requirements

Details of the Pharmacy Quality Scheme 2023/24 are now available to read via the [NHSBSA website here](#) and additional PQS guidance provided by NHS England [here](#). To read our earlier editions of the **PQS Bulletins** and for an easy to follow, **Month at a Glance** guide to all the actions you will need to complete, see the our website [here](#).

PQS Gateway Criteria – New Medicines Service

To make a claim for PQS payments, pharmacies must first meet the Gateway Criteria of completing 15 or more New Medicines Service (NMS) between 1st April 2023 and by 31st December 2023. Check how many NMS you have completed so far and make a plan to reach the required number.

Medicines Safety & Optimisation - High Risk Medicines – Anticoagulant Audit

Best get this one out of the way early if you can!

The pharmacy must also have completed the revised audit ([see section 10.1 Oral Anticoagulant Safety Audit 2023/24](#)), including notifying the patient's GP where concerns are identified, sharing their anonymised data with NHS England, and incorporating any learning from the audit into future practice by the 31st March 2024. The audit must be carried out over two weeks with a minimum of 15 patients or four weeks if 15 patients are not achieved within two weeks, and there must be a follow up of any patient that is referred to their prescriber to identify what actions were taken. Remember to record your start and finish dates, you will need them for your MYS application.

PQS Training Requirements

Checking your training is up to date for the Respiratory and Prevention Domains.

Respiratory - Inhaler Technique	<p>Check Your Training! All pharmacists (carrying out NMS) completed, within the last four years, the CPPE Inhaler technique for health professionals: getting it right e-learning OR attended a CPPE face-to-face inhaler technique workshop. And passed the Inhaler technique for health professionals e-assessment.</p>
Respiratory - Inhaler Waste Management	<p>Check Your Training! All patient-facing pharmacy staff working at the pharmacy have been trained on the reasons why used, unwanted and expired inhalers should be returned to the pharmacy for safe disposal and the adverse effects on the environment when inhalers are disposed of in domestic waste. There is no set training course for this requirement, however Community Pharmacy England has published a briefing ‘Reducing the climate change impact of inhalers: environmentally safe disposal’ which contractors can choose to use to meet this requirement.</p>

Prevention - Antimicrobial Stewardship	Check Your Training! All non-registered pharmacy staff must have satisfactorily completed, within the last three years, <u>the Infection prevention and control Level 1 e-learning and assessment on the ELFH website.</u>
	All registered pharmacy professionals must have satisfactorily completed, within the last three years, <u>the Infection Prevention and Control Level 2 e-learning and assessment on the ELFH website.</u>
	All patient-facing pharmacy staff that provide advice on medicines or healthcare must have satisfactorily completed, within the last three years, the <u>Antimicrobial Stewardship for Community Pharmacy e-learning and e-assessment.</u>
Prevention - Antimicrobial Stewardship	Antibiotic Guardian pledge - all patient-facing staff that provide advice on medicines or healthcare, working at the pharmacy on the day of the declaration should have become <u>Antibiotic Guardians</u> and have an awareness of the content of the local antibiotic formulary and how to access it.
Prevention - Antimicrobial Stewardship	Check Your Training! Safe disposal - All patient-facing pharmacy staff must have been trained on the reasons why unwanted and expired antibiotics should be returned to the pharmacy for safe disposal and the adverse effects on the environment and antimicrobial resistance when antibiotics are disposed of in domestic waste.

If you have any questions, please contact Phil Wiles using email phil@cpwy.org or mobile 07793 218 060.

Kind regards,

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