

Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) 2026/27

Get your Gateway Criterion Sorted Now!

There are three parts to the gateway criterion that must be met to qualify for payments under the PQS:

- Complete the PEOLC (Palliative End of Life Care) questionnaire in [Manage Your Service \(MYS\)](#).
- Confirm status as a Pharmacy palliative care medication stockholder via [NHS Profile Manager](#).
- Complete your PEOLC action plan.

To qualify for the PQS 2026/27 payment, pharmacy owners must meet all three parts of the gateway criterion. For more information and materials to support your claim, see the document [here](#).

Services Information

Hypertension Case-Finding Service

Changes to the Service Specification Take Effect Today! – The updated Hypertension Case-Finding Service (HCFS) specification comes into effect today, (Thursday 3rd September 2026), with several significant changes. Please ensure all team members involved in delivering the service are aware of the updated requirements:

- [Read the service specification](#).
- Read the CPE summary of the key changes [here](#).

Engaging with GP Practices – The updated specification includes important changes to the patients who can be signposted or referred from practices:

Key Changes Affecting Practices

- **Clinic BP checks** – only people without a prior diagnosis of hypertension and who have not had their blood pressure checked in the last 5 years can be signposted or referred for a clinic check.
- **ABPM** – can now only be offered to adults who are **aged 40 years and over** (note – practices can still refer patients with diagnosed hypertension for ABPM).
- **Electronic referrals** – there is now a recommendation that referrals for ABPM are made electronically to the pharmacy.

Pharmacies providing the HCFS are encouraged to liaise with their local GP practices to ensure they are aware of these changes. CPE has produced a template letter/email [here](#) summarising the changes, which can be adapted for local use. A CPE briefing for GP practice teams is also available [here](#) to help explain the changes.

CPE FAQ Page – CPE has updated the [HCFS FAQ](#) page to reflect the new service specification. It's well worth bookmarking and checking if you have a question about the service. Chances are, you won't be the only one asking, and the answer may already be there! We've highlighted some key FAQs below for quick reference.

Q. How can pharmacy staff avoid providing a clinic check to a patient more than once in a 5-year period? As part of the check of patient eligibility to access the service, the patient should be asked if they have had a BP check in the last 5 years. If they answer no and you have no record of providing the service to them at that pharmacy during the last 5 years, the service can be offered to the patient.

Q. Can signposting from general practice for a clinic check be for a person of any age? No; people signposted for a clinic check need to be 40 years or older. The service can now only be used to provide clinic checks to adults aged 40 years and over without a prior diagnosis of hypertension who have not had their blood pressure checked in the last 5 years.

Q. Can signposting from general practice for ABPM be for a person of any age? No. People need to be 40 years or older to be signposted or referred for ABPM.

Q. Can a patient aged 40 years or over be referred or signposted by a general practice or other healthcare provider for ABPM where the patient already has a diagnosis of hypertension? Yes. For example, GPs may want a patient with hypertension to undergo ABPM so variation in their BP across the day can be assessed or the impact of a newly prescribed antihypertensive can be measured.

CPE Updated Resources – CPE has updated the suite of service promotion resources which includes:

- Small flyers to use on prescription bags;
- A template patient leaflet to promote the service;
- An infographic to help engage patients – Blood pressure check service what's involved;
- A Briefing for pharmacy teams on the service;
- A service promotion checklist;
- Updated referral templates;
- A patient online information sources guide; and
- An ambulatory blood pressure monitoring patient leaflet.

These are available on the CPE website page [here](#).

Pharmacies delivering the HCFS must have both a blood pressure monitor and an Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring (ABPM) device.

Know Your Numbers! Week 2026 – Next week (7th – 13th September 2026) is 'Know Your Numbers! Week'. An annual campaign aimed to reach those who have high blood pressure and don't know it, so they can get the treatment and support they need to bring it under control.

If you provide the Hypertension Case-Finding Service, this is a great opportunity to bring awareness to the campaign next week! The Blood Pressure UK website hosts different resources you can use in the pharmacy – see [here](#).



Meningitis B Vaccination Service – Updates

Move to Self-Service on Profile Manager – Pharmacies can now update Profile Manager to appear on the '[Find a MenB pharmacy](#)' and from now on, inclusion is no longer managed centrally.

All pharmacies participating in the programme that completed the required steps before the end of July should already be included on the finder. However, if a pharmacy completed the necessary steps to receive stock from August onwards, they must update their NHS Profile Manager to appear on the finder. The finder enables individuals to find participating pharmacies and view opening times. If they walk in, they can make a local appointment or be vaccinated where possible. Pharmacies are reminded to remove the service listing from their NHS Profile Manager if they have de-registered and are no longer delivering the service.

NBS Bookings – All eligible individuals can book an appointment for a MenB vaccination on NBS. Previously, only people in the school Year 13 age group in the academic year 2025/26 were able to book an appointment via NBS.

Seasonal Vaccination Services

NHS Flu Vaccinations for Pregnant Women Commenced – The NHS Flu Programme has commenced, (1st September 2026), and pregnant women can now be vaccinated. Other eligible cohorts will be able to receive their flu vaccines from 1st October 2026.

National Booking Service (NBS) – Reminder to Publish Vaccination Appointments – If you are using the NBS to offer flu vaccination appointments, remember to publish appointments on Manage Your Appointments (MYA) for all relevant cohorts. NBS is now open and eligible members of the public can book appointments from 1st October 2026, or from 1st September if they are pregnant (appointment dates shown to will depend on their cohort).

Note: the NBS uses the patient's NHS number to check eligibility based on age. Where eligibility is based on other criteria, the system cannot verify this automatically, and patients are asked to review the eligibility criteria and self-declare and advised that vaccination will only be provided if they meet the eligibility criteria, which will be confirmed by the clinician at the appointment.

REMINDER – The Way Pharmacies Must Record NHS Vaccinations Has Changed – Following changes introduced by NHS England, from 1st September 2026 all NHS vaccination services must be recorded in NHS Record a Vaccination Service (RAVS) rather than Outcomes4Health.

Action Required

- Sign up for a RAVS account if you don't already have one. It is recommended that you use the same email address as your PharmOutcomes account (NHSE will shortly introduce the ability to sign in to RAVS using your existing PharmOutcomes credentials).
- Register here: <https://www.ravs.england.nhs.uk/signup-pharmacy>

Note – private vaccinations cannot be recorded in RAVS.

For further guidance, please see the RAVS user guide [here](#).

REMINDER – Registration is Mandatory – A final reminder that pharmacies must have registered to provide the NHS adult flu vaccination service before administering any vaccinations. **Vaccinations given before registration will not be eligible for payment.**

Information for Pharmacies across West Yorkshire

CPWY and West Yorkshire ICB – Independent Prescribing Survey Reminder

CPWY in collaboration with West Yorkshire ICB, has created a survey to gather information on Independent Prescribing within the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF). The insight you provide will help us understand how best to support contractors, identify common needs, share learning, and ensure the workforce is ready for the changes coming soon. Your input will directly shape our implementation approach and help build a consistent, safe and adaptable prescribing model across West Yorkshire.

We emailed all pharmacies via their shared NHSmail address last week (Friday 28th August 2026). Please take a moment to check your shared inbox for the survey details and the link to complete it.

We'd really appreciate your input **by Monday 7th September 2026** if you haven't yet had the opportunity to respond – thank you in advance! 🙌

Training and Development

- **CPWY Events:**
 - *Event details will be posted here when published.*
- **CPWY e-Learning** – [click here](#) to see the latest Virtual Outcomes e-Learning modules available for West Yorkshire pharmacy teams to access!
- **CPPE Events** – The next set of face to face and online workshops are now live for booking. See the document below for further details on workshops and resources:
 - [CPPE Community Pharmacy Update – Spring/Summer 2026](#)

CPWY Connect – WhatsApp Group

Our CPWY Connect WhatsApp group is a messaging group created to connect and support pharmacy teams across West Yorkshire.

