

Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) 2026/27 – Gateway Criterion

Gateway Criterion

There are three parts to the gateway criterion that must be met, which are detailed in the table below. To qualify for the PQS 2026/27 payment, pharmacy owners must meet all three parts of the gateway criterion. For more information, please visit the Community Pharmacy England website [here](#).

a) PEoLC questionnaire

Pharmacy owners must complete the questionnaire to evaluate the value of the Palliative and End of Life Care criterion. The questionnaire will be accessible in [Manage Your Service \(MYS\)](#) from 9am on Thursday 27th August 2026 and must be submitted by the end of 31st December 2026 to meet the gateway criteria.

b) Pharmacy palliative care medication stockholder

As soon as possible after 2nd June 2026 and by the end of 31st March 2027, the pharmacy 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 listed and can support local access to parenteral haloperidol.

Pharmacy owners with profiles that cannot currently be updated via NHS Profile Manager may still meet this criterion and update the Directory of Services (DoS) profile by [contacting their Regional DoS lead](#).

Note – Pharmacy owners who claimed for the Medicines Optimisation Domain in 2025/26 must ensure their status is correct and updated for 2026/27 by logging into NHS Profile Manager and confirming this between 2nd June 2026 and by the end of 31st March 2027 by [verifying their account](#). If this verification has not been completed, a pharmacy owner will not have met this requirement even if their profile is still showing them as a stockholder.

c) PEoLC action plan

By the end of 31st March 2027, **ALL** pharmacy owners must have an action plan in place **irrespective of whether they do or do not routinely stock the 16 palliative and end-of-life critical medicines**, to use when they do not have the required stock of the 16 palliative and end of life critical medicines and/or parenteral haloperidol available for a patient. This must include collated information from pharmacies in their area to be able to aid a patient, relative/carer in obtaining medication as swiftly as possible.

The action plan for 2026/27 must be available for inspection from the end of 31st March 2027 at premises level and must be retained for 3 years for PPV purposes.

Resources

- [Action plan template 2026/27 \(PDF\)](#) – to support the creation of an action plan required to meet the requirements of the PQS criteria.
- [Action plan template 2026/27 \(Word\)](#)

West Yorkshire Pharmacies that Provide the Local Palliative Care Service

A list of pharmacies participating in the scheme is sent out by the WY ICB to key organisations before each Bank Holiday.

Health professionals can also use the [NHS Service Finder](#) to locate a community pharmacy who routinely holds palliative and end of life critical medicines. For a guide on using NHS Service Finder to locate a community pharmacy that stocks palliative care medication, click [here](#).

(Note: the search will return both pharmacies who are commissioned to provide the Palliative Care Formulary Service AND pharmacies who have declared under the PQS that they routinely hold the nationally defined 16 palliative and end of life critical medicines).

For more information about the local Palliative Care Service click [here](#)