

CPCF 2024/25 & 2025/26

Communication No 1 – Contract Overview - 1st May 2025

In this series of comms we will look at subjects pertaining to the new contract announced last month. This week we will look at a basic overview of the new contract. The new contract covers 24/25 retrospectively and 25/26.

The money the new contract provides is estimated at an average of £65,200 per pharmacy. CPE have produced an [indicative income calculator](#) for pharmacies to check how they are affected individually. Funding has two main elements as described below and despite the increases, it is acknowledged that a significant funding gap remains.

1. Basic Funding Overview



Funding



1. **CPCF** – this includes PQS money.

2. **Pharmacy first Budget**, which now also includes **OC** and **BP** advanced services

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
CPCF contract sum	£2,592m	£2,698m*	£3,073m*
Margin write off			£193m
Primary Care Recovery Plan ('Pharmacy First') spend	£48m**	£140m**	£215m
Total	£2,640m	£2,838m	£3,481m
Percentage change Year on Year		7.5%	22.7%
Percentage change versus 2023/24		7.5%	31.9%

This leaves £42 million of margin to be clawed back over the next 12 months.

[Margin explainer](#)



*Includes increased margin allowance of £850m in 2024/25 and £900m in 2025/26

**Significant portions of the Primary Care Recovery Plan budget were allocated towards historic fee write offs, marketing for Pharmacy First and IT development, and are not shown in the table



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2. Service Specific Funding Changes

a. PFS

- i. From April 1st 2025 the fee for Clinical Pathway Consultations and Minor Illness Referral consultations was increased to £17. Urgent supply consultations remain at £15
- ii. From June 1st the threshold for fixed payments for Clinical Pathway Consultations will be changed to
 1. 20-29 consultations → £500 monthly payment
 2. 30+ → £1000 monthly payment
- iii. Caps for Clinical Pathway Consultations have changed and are likely to change in the future dependent on national delivery. This is to ensure that the budget of £215m is not exceeded.
- iv. Bundling: To claim the above fixed payment for PFS delivery pharmacies will need to also
 1. From June 2025, be registered for both the hypertension service and the oral contraceptive service (reminder that if you deregister, there is a period of four months before you can reregister for a service)
 2. From October 2025 pharmacies will be required to deliver 1 ABPM per month
 3. From March 2026 pharmacies will be required to deliver a specified number of OC consultations – details tbd.

b. OC Service

- i. Consultation fee has been increased to £25 (from £18) from April 2025
- ii. From October 2025 (confirmation of date pending) the service will include EHC provision with a service fee of £20.
- iii. We are discussing with local commissioners how the local funding for EHC may be reallocated within pharmacy once the national EHC service is launched.

c. Hypertension case-finding service

- i. From April 2025 the fee for a BP check is reduced to £10
- ii. From April 2025 the fee for an ABPM is increased to £50.85
- iii. New guidance on the service will be issued, a change to who is eligible for BP checks is expected.

d. NMS

- i. From April the fee structure is simplified - £14 for intervention and £14 for completion and not a sliding scale.
- ii. Depression will be added to conditions suitable for NMS from October 2025

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3. PQS

- A reduced PQS of one gateway and two domains.
- Between May 1st and 16th pharmacies can claim an aspiration payment of 75% of points (estimated at around £2300) for PQS 25/26. This payment will be made in July 2025
- Final declaration can be submitted between 2nd February 2026 and 27th February 2026 and evidence of claims must be available from the end of March 2026.

4. Key Regulatory changes

- Removal of need to get patient sign back of levy Rx
- Removal of need to get references for new employees
- Removal of need to produce a practice leaflet
- 25/26 – no national or pharmacy chosen clinical audit.
- Health Campaigns – maximum of two national and two ICB health campaigns
- Significant changes to DSP regulations
- Changes to core hour adjustment applications.

5. Key Events Timeline

Key events timeline





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6. Links to find out more

- a. Virtual Outcomes Training for pharmacy teams, new modules on CPCF settlement and PQS <https://virtualoutcomes.co.uk/>
- b. CPE Briefing Document - Funding settlement <https://cpe.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Briefing-010.25-Funding-Settlementfor-2024-25-and-2025-26.pdf>
- c. CPE - Funding Settlement Infographic <https://cpe.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Infographic-CPCF-Settlement-202425and-202526-1.pdf> CPE - Clinical Services now paid in Advance payment <https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/contract-changes-clinical-services-to-be-included-in-advancepayments/>
- d. CPE - General funding FAQ's <https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/contract-changes-general-funding-faqs/> CPE - Indicative Income calculator - link can be found on this page <https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/cpcf-arrangements-for-2024-25-and-2025-26-announced/>
- e. CPE - NMS Service - when can you claim? <https://cpe.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/NMS-when-are-payments-claimableApr-2025.pdf> NHSBSA Pharmacy First Clinical Pathway Caps <https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-first-clinical-pathways-caps-published-forapril-2025/>
- f. CPE - DSP Regulatory FAQs <https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/contract-changes-dsp-regulatory-faqs/> Pharmacy Quality Scheme 25/26 <https://cpe.org.uk/quality-and-regulations/pharmacy-quality-scheme/>