



Daily Update

Thursday 8th October 2020

This daily update contains important information for community pharmacy teams about the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In today's update: PQS Aspiration payment reminder; update on Priadel withdrawal.

One day left to claim PQS Part 2 Aspiration payment

Community pharmacy contractors have ONE day left to claim an Aspiration payment for the Pharmacy Quality Scheme 2020/21 Part 2 before the window for claiming this payment closes on **Friday 9th October 2020 at 23:59**.

Contractors who wish to, can claim an Aspiration payment for this scheme, to assist with cash flow. The Aspiration payment claim is made through the [Manage Your Service \(MYS\) portal](#). To qualify, contractors will have to declare that they will complete PQS Part 1 and they will need to decide which domains they intend to meet at the February 2021 declaration period.

NHS England and NHS Improvement have confirmed in their PQS guidance that the Aspiration payment will be paid to contractors on 30th October 2020.

[Learn more about claiming the Aspiration payment](#)

Update: Priadel withdrawal paused

Essential Pharma has informed the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) of its decision to reverse the discontinuation of Priadel 200mg and 400mg tablets from the UK market with immediate effect, whilst facilitating pricing discussions. As such the discontinuation notice issued to DHSC earlier this year has been withdrawn.

In light of this, clinicians across all healthcare settings are advised that there is no longer a need to implement system wide switching of patients from Priadel tablets to an alternative lithium carbonate preparation until further notice.

Essential Pharma has confirmed supplies of Priadel 200mg and 400mg tablets are sufficient to meet current UK demand and is working to ensure further stocks are available to maintain supply after April 2021.

[Click here to view the CAS Alert](#)

Have you seen our latest FAQs?

PSNC's website has a large number of answers to queries posed by pharmacy contractors, their teams and LPCs; these are updated on a regular basis. Recent additions include:

Q. Do I have to have met the Gateway criterion (completing the Part 1 PQS scheme) before I can make a claim for the Part 2 PQS Aspiration payment?

No, however, contractors will need to have met the Gateway criterion on the day of their PQS declaration.

Q. What happens if I do not meet all the domains that I have aspired to meet (when claiming my Aspiration payment) when I make my PQS declaration during the declaration period?

Where pharmacies have been paid an Aspiration payment which exceeds their final declared total, they must pay back monies for domains which have subsequently not been achieved; this will be deducted automatically by the NHSBSA. Receiving an Aspiration payment is conditional on a contractor's agreement to this arrangement.

Q. What happens to any unclaimed money for Aspiration payments?

Aspiration payments will be paid out of the £56.25m funding assigned to the Part 2 PQS. Therefore, there will not be any unclaimed money as the money left 'in the pot' after contractors have been paid their Aspiration payments, will be used to pay contractors their PQS payments.

Keep up-to-date on COVID-19 with our hub page: psnc.org.uk/coronavirus

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