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| News Alert |
| Thursday 12th August 2021 |

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|  | New Pharmacy Quality Scheme for 2021/22 announced |  |
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|  | Initial details of the new Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) for this year have been released today.PSNC, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) have agreed the arrangements for the 2021/22 scheme, with a focus on priorities supporting recovery from COVID-19.The scheme will officially begin on 1st September 2021 with a declaration period in February 2022. As with previous schemes, it has £75m funding available and contractors will be able to claim an Aspiration payment if they wish to, later this year.In our negotiations on the scheme, a key win for PSNC was reducing the scope of this year's PQS so that the estimated contractor costs and time required to complete the criteria will be well below those associated with the original NHS proposal for the scheme. PSNC hopes that this, along with arguing for more realistic targets across the scheme, will help reduce the impact on contractor workload, at what continues to be a very busy period for the sector.Much of the detail has been published via an announcement on the NHSBSA website and the remaining details will be published in the September 2021 Drug Tariff. The announcement outlines what will be included in the PQS this year, noting:* Gateway criteria of at least 20 NMS, patient safety and COVID-19 risk management requirements, plus training on LASA errors and sepsis;
* Identifying people who would benefit from weight management advice and onward referral;
* Training on health inequalities and producing an action plan to actively promote COVID-19 vaccinations;
* Training to develop remote consultation skills;
* Enhancing antimicrobial stewardship using the Target antibiotic checklist;
* An anticoagulant audit to enhance patient safety;
* Engagement with PCNs to increase flu vaccination uptake; and
* Checking inhaler technique (as part of catch-up NMS) and ensuring patients have personalised asthma action plans, as well as encouraging return of unwanted and used inhalers for environmentally safe disposal.

[**Read the PQS 2021/22 announcement in full**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=9ec64a15e5&e=d19e9fd41c) |  |
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