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Quality Payments: NHSmail gateway criterion

A PSNC Briefing, [001/19: Quality Payments – meeting the NHSmail gateway criterion](#), was published to provide community pharmacy contractors with information and a checklist to assist them with meeting the NHSmail gateway criterion of the Quality Payments Scheme.

Contractors should be aware that the NHSmail gateway criterion for the February 2019 review point has changed from previous review points. To meet the gateway criterion, pharmacy staff at a pharmacy must now be able to send and receive NHSmail from their shared premises NHSmail mailbox, which must have at least **two active** linked accounts, on the day of the review (15th February 2019).

An active linked NHSmail account is one that has been accessed within the last three months and is enabled to allow the user access to the shared NHSmail account.

A recent NHS Business Services Authority (NHS BSA) [gateway criteria report \(updated Friday 4th January 2019\)](#) showed that 3,197* contractors had not been validated as meeting the NHSmail gateway criterion. The PSNC Services Team would therefore encourage contractors to use the checklist contained in the above Briefing to ensure that their pharmacy meets or continues to meet the NHSmail gateway criterion.

Contractors are also reminded that the NHS BSA gateway criteria report can change on a weekly basis, for example, a contractor could show as meeting the NHSmail gateway criterion if their shared premises NHSmail account has two active linked NHSmail accounts. However, if one of these accounts becomes inactive before the review point, the report could change to show that the contractor no longer meets the NHSmail gateway criterion. Following the checklist in the above Briefing should prevent an NHSmail account (both the shared premises and linked NHSmail accounts) from becoming inactive and therefore ensure the pharmacy remains on the NHS BSA report as having been validated as meeting the NHSmail gateway criterion.

* If a pharmacy has a legacy shared NHSmail account (see pages 19-20 of the [NHS England Quality Payments Guidance for the February 2019 Review Point](#)), it will not be included in the NHS Digital validation dataset as being recognised in the NHS BSA gateway criteria report as a shared NHSmail account. Further action will also be required by contractors after they have made their Quality Payments Scheme declaration if they have a legacy shared NHSmail account – please see point 8 in the above PSNC Briefing.

Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee



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