

Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework Update: Changes to the CPCF for 2023/24



Community
Pharmacy Wales
Fferylliaeth
Gymunedol Cymru

CPW Guide for Contractors

The changes to the CPCF for 23/24 were finalised on Wednesday 29 March 2023 and the details were shared at the contractor event on the same day. A copy of the slides shared can be found: [here](#)

As was detailed at the event, unfortunately the funding uplift that has been made available for the CPCF in 23/24 is not the uplift proposed by Community Pharmacy Wales, despite the proposal being put forward by CPW being described by Welsh Government as "*not unreasonable*".

Due to the uplift being lower than needed, and also due to the enablers (such as dispensing volume decrease and Terms of service review) not yet having taken place it was agreed that some elements of the CPCF originally proposed could be suspended for 23/24.

Themes underpinning the Contractual Reform

The four themes outlined in the CPCF agreement for 22/23 have been used to outline the changes for 23/24.

Full details in relation to the new CPCF "*A New Prescription*" that commenced in 22/23 and form the basis of the 23/24 CPCF can be found on the CPW website [here](#)

The four themes are:

1. Primary Care Clusters, Collaborative Working, Continuity and Quality & Safety;
2. Workforce;
3. Clinical Services; and
4. Funding Flows.

PRIMARY CARE CLUSTERS, COLLABORATIVE WORKING, CONTINUITY AND QUALITY & SAFETY:

Community Pharmacy Collaborative Leads (CPCL)

- CPCL is the new name for the Primary Care Cluster Community Pharmacy Lead roles (PCCCPL)
- The CPCL role will continue for 2023/24 at an increased level of **£527.80**/ quarter (£2111.20 in total)
- The findings of the evaluation of the CPCL role in line with the priorities of the Accelerated Cluster Development programme will be considered to redefine the role in 2023/24
- Following the evaluation, Welsh Government have confirmed that any additional funding made available for the CPCL role will come from outside of the CPCF. (i.e. new monies)
- The role will still be able to be filled by either a pharmacist or pharmacy technician working regularly (2 or more days/ week during the period they are CPCL) in the primary care cluster
- Currently 11 vacancies across Wales – for more information contact Aled.Roberts@cpwales.org.uk Details of the vacancies can be found: [here](#)
- For further information on the CPCL role click [here](#)

Collaborative Working

- Funding for collaborative working for 2023/24 is set at **£1055.60**
- The “standard” collaborative working visits for meeting with other healthcare professionals (e.g. GPs) within the cluster to discuss a priority area are suspended for 2023/24 (with the released funding moving to practice payment)
- Up to three payments each of **£263.90** (£791.70) will be made available to contractors for a pharmacist/ pharmacy technician attending (physically or virtually) a meeting arranged by the CPCL for all the pharmacies within the cluster. A 4th payment of a further £263.90 will be paid once a claim has been made for attending three meetings.
- All three meetings can be attended by a pharmacist or pharmacy technician who works regularly at the pharmacy (2 or more days/ week for a period of 8 consecutive weeks including the date of the meeting). There is no longer a requirement that at least 1 of the

meetings must be attended by a pharmacist.

- A detailed report of the visit must be kept in the pharmacy (either electronically or on paper) detailing the meeting and actions from it. (Report must include: date and time of the meeting, names and pharmacies of those who attended, a summary of the meeting, any actions agreed and the current status of those actions).
- The report must be produced on request for Post Payment Verification purposes (or monies will be reclaimed)
- Any underspend will be distributed as in previous years – contractors who have claimed for collaborative working will receive their share of the underspend based on the number of claims made
- Further information on Collaborative Working can be found: [here](#)

Quality & Safety Scheme

- Quality & Safety Scheme requirements have changed for 2023/24
- Following representations from CPW in respect of workforce, workload and capacity each individual element of the scheme will have a financial element allocated. Contractors are therefore able to make “business decisions” as to whether to engage with each element or not.
- From 2024/25 the “all or nothing” funding element will return
- The following items have been stopped in the Quality & Safety Scheme for 2023/24:
 - High Risk Medicines Audit
 - IQT bronze

Contractors should ensure they still complete the requirements for 22/23 though as Post Payment Verification will take place.

- The intention of the quality and safety scheme for 23/24 is to:
 - Increase the whole community pharmacy teams’ awareness of mental ill-health and wellbeing support;
 - Encourage pharmacies to take action on the responsible disposal of inhalers in line with the NHS Wales Decarbonisation Strategic Delivery Plan; and
 - Validate information about pharmacy services contained in the All Wales Pharmacy Database (AWPD).

- Awareness of mental ill-health and wellbeing support – this element will be met by 2 initiatives:
 - i. Mental health awareness e-learning:

All employees involved in the provision of NHS pharmaceutical services* will complete the Mental Health Awareness e-learning package.

(* as outlined in the Drug Tariff requirements)

The package is 30 minutes.

A payment of **£580** will be payable to all contractors who complete a declaration on NECAF by 31 March 2024 indicating that this element has been completed.
 - ii. First Aid for mental Health Training

One employee from the pharmacy should attend a full day training session provided by HEIW.

Can be attended by any member of the team involved in the provision of NHS pharmaceutical services (no requirement for it to be a pharmacist or technician)

A single payment of **£580** will be payable to all contractors who complete a declaration on NECAF by 31 March 2024 indicating that this element has been completed
- Responsible disposal of inhalers - In line with the ambitions of the NHS Wales Decarbonisation Strategic Delivery Plan pharmacies will be requested to participate in a nationally agreed community pharmacy inhaler waste amnesty programme to support the responsible disposal of inhalers.

A single payment of **£500** will be payable to all contractors who complete a declaration in the National Electronic Claim and Audit Form (NECAF) system by 31 March 2024, indicating they have met the criteria required in the national community pharmacy inhaler waste amnesty programme.
- Validation of the All Wales Pharmacy Database (AWPD): Pharmacy contractors will be requested to undertake a validation exercise of the data held in the AWPD in two quarters of the year, a payment of **£520** will be payable for each validation exercise.

The details included in the AWPD will be reviewed to ensure that it is more relevant going forward.
- Wales National Workforce Reporting System (WNWRS): this is planned to be introduced later in 2023-24 once the GDPR concerns that have been raised have been addressed.
- Any underspend will be distributed as in previous years – contractors eligible for Quality & Safety will receive their share of the underspend based on the number of claims made.
- Further information on the Quality & Safety Scheme can be found: [here](#)

Continuity

- Following concerns raised by CPW in respect of workforce, the planned move of continuity requirements into the establishment payment has been delayed until 2024/25. Contractors are advised to continue to work towards regular availability of all CCPS elements.
- The Continuity payments available during 2023/24 will be **£6333.60**.
- Continuity payments will cover 3 elements of CCPS:
 - Common Ailments Service – 80% availability
 - Contraception (includes BOTH EC and Bridging/ QuickStart) – 80% availability
 - Flu – All or nothing payment where flu vaccination services are available on AT LEAST one day per month in each of the four months September to December 2023 AND on no fewer than 40 days in total.

	CAS (£)	Flu (£)	CS (£)	Total (£)
Apr	263.90	N/A	263.90	527.80
May	263.90	N/A	263.90	527.80
Jun	263.90	N/A	263.90	527.80
Jul	263.90	N/A	263.90	527.80
Aug	263.90	N/A	263.90	527.80
Sep	263.90	316.68	263.90	844.48
Oct	158.34	316.68	158.34	633.36
Nov	158.34	316.68	158.34	633.36
Dec	158.34	316.68	158.34	633.36
Jan	158.34	N/A	158.34	316.68
Feb	158.34	N/A	158.34	316.68
Mar	158.34	N/A	158.34	316.68

- Any underspend will be distributed as in previous years – contractors who have claimed for Continuity will receive their share of the underspend based on the number of claims made.
- It is expected that the Continuity scheme will cease at the end of

2023/24 and the funding will move to the Establishment Payment (Clinical Services) and that after this point there is likely to be a requirement for CCPS availability.

- Further information on continuity can be found: [here](#)

WORKFORCE

The responsibility for workforce development, will in the main, be taken forward by HEIW. The investment in workforce from HEIW has been agreed outside of the CPCF funding.

HEIW support in 2023/24:

- 150 Independent Prescriber places per annum funded with £3000 backfill and all HEI fees paid – application process is now open
- Support and Training for DPPs.
- Access to Pre-Registration Pharmacy Technician training funded through HEIW with £2000 backfill
- Access to extended, advanced and higher-level post-registration education – application process is now open
- Changes to Foundation and Post-Registration Foundation training as part of IETP changes – Further increasing IP training

Workforce Enablers (from CPCF funding):

- Two-year incentive to encourage recruitment and retention of pharmacy Technicians in community pharmacy
- Funding available in 2022/23 and 2023/24
- Funding for 2023/24 agreed that up to two payments are available each month against up to two levels of Pharmacy Technician/ Trainee, following feedback from contractors:
 - **£2070.60** / annum for pharmacies / pre-registration pharmacy technician
 - **£4141.20** / annum for pharmacies / registered pharmacy technician
 - **£5176.50** / annum for pharmacies / registered pharmacy technician undertaking training to become an accuracy training technician
 - **£6211.80** / annum for pharmacies / accuracy checking technician (registered with the GPhC)
- Monthly declaration by pharmacy of total technician (or pre-registration pharmacy technician) hours worked through NECAF

- Payments are pro-rata against a 37.5 hour week
- Up to 2 claims per pharmacy – pharmacy decides which level(s) to claim (up to a maximum of £12,423.60 per annum)
- Underspend from Workforce Enabler to be returned to the unallocated funding for redistribution as practice payment.

CLINICAL SERVICES

Clinical Community Pharmacy Service (CCPS)

- From 1 April 2023 the CCPS will comprise four services (Contraception, Seasonal Flu Vaccine, Common Ailments Service and Emergency Medication Supply). "Contraception" services will include both Emergency Contraception and Bridging Contraception.
- To be commissioned to deliver the CCPS, pharmacies must deliver all four services (cannot "opt-out")
- Contractors must complete the listing form to provide Bridging and Quickstart Contraception by 31 March 2023 to remain listed for CCPS in April 2023 (and remain eligible for the Establishment Payment (Clinical Services)).
- Sore Throat Test & Treat (STT&T) is included within the CCPS but remains as a voluntary aspect of the service. To provide the service contractors must complete the premises listing form. STT&T training will move to online training from approx. May 2023
- Fees have been increased from 1 April 2023 by the 1.5% pay increase offered to NHS staff in the recent pay award.

Pharmacist Independent Prescribing Service (PIPS)

- Funding to increase to £8.16m for 2023/24 (instead of the proposed £12m – with the remainder of the funding left in practice payment)
- Set-up funding of £0.2m for Health Boards for development costs (DPP/ DSMP costs etc) to be maintained
- Quarterly fee of £263.90 to support ongoing governance requirements and professional development of the IP (paid when the pharmacist makes a declaration that it has taken place and a record of the activity is kept for Health Boards to inspect)
- Funding for National Directed service to be based on a hybrid of availability as well as delivery from 1 April 2023 for those pharmacies who have offered the service for 12 months.
- Changes to minimum/ threshold and upper values in each banding previously proposed (following representations by CPW to WG after the first year of provision)
- Flexibility for availability will be retained within 2023-24 due to the concerns raised by CPW in respect of the availability of IPs to cover absence. Contractors will need to confirm that the declared banding and threshold has been achieved on 11 out of 13 normal working

weeks.

- Extension of the Availability only model for all new PIPs contractors for 12 months from the start of each service.
- 6 month declaration introduced for new PIPS contractors indicating a series of tasks that need to be completed (including discussions with local GP practices etc) exact details to be confirmed.
- Fee structure for the first 12 month of providing the service (fees from 1 April 2023):

Band	Availability	Funding (per month)	Number of consultations	Fees above upper limit
1	80 hours/ month ¹	£1903.25	Up to 75 consultations	Above upper limit each consultation will be remunerated at £25 / consultation
2	110 hours/ month ²	£2446.88	Up to 100 consultations	Above upper limit each consultation will be remunerated at £25/ consultation
3	150 hours/ month ³	£3261.80	Up to 145 consultations	Above upper limit each consultation will be remunerated at £25/ consultation

¹ Over a minimum of 2 days/ week

² Over a minimum of 3 days/ week

³ Over a minimum of 4 days/ week

For contractors who have offered the service for a minimum of 12 months, thresholds will be introduced to the service and the fees will be from April 2023:

		Minimum	Threshold	Upper limit
Band 1	Consultations	15	35	75
	Payments	Below min. £25/consultation Once Reach min. £1195.99/month	£1903.25/month once reach threshold	Above upper limit £1903.25 + £25/consultation
Band 2	Consultations	25	50	100
	Payments	Below min. £25/consultation Once reach min. £1522.18/month	£2446.88/month once reach threshold	Above upper limit £2446.88 + £25/consultation
Band 3	Consultations	40	80	145
	Payments	Below min. £25/consultation Once reach min. £2174.54/month	£3261.80/month once reach threshold	Above upper limit £3261.80 + £25/consultation

- The funding for PIPS will be kept under review during 2023/24 and could be increased up to a maximum of £12.16m if anticipated to exceed £8.16m or reduced if anticipated to be significantly lower than £8.16m. Adjustments will be through changes to practice payment.

FUNDING FLOWS

- The funding for next year is exceptionally challenging
- 1% increase applied to the CPCF for 2023/24 – equivalent to £1.577m
- CPCF ring-fenced funding for 23/24 = £158.8m
(equates to a £4.5m uplift for the start of 2023-24 compared to the original baseline in 2022-23 – as additional funding was provided in the summer of 2022/23)
- Funding released from the suspension of (part of) collaborative working, quality and safety scheme, IP funding all added to practice payment (in acknowledgement that volume has not decreased)
- All of the additional £1.577m also added to practice payments
- Although the improved pay award for NHS employees has not been awarded to the CPCF, the 1.5% increase has been applied to all Clinical service fees, collaborative working payments etc.
- Increased Clinical Service fees can be viewed in the Drug Tariff
- Possibility of additional funding in Summer 2023 when the NHS Pay Review Body report their recommendations (but not guaranteed)
- Concerns in respect of the business decisions that contractors will need to make to cover the additional costs (including the significant rise in minimum wage) have been outlined to Welsh Government and acknowledged.

The following table, (based on *Presgripsiwn Newydd. A New Prescription - The future of community pharmacy in Wales,*) details the previously proposed direction of travel for the funding allocation over the next year with a new column detailing the confirmed funding for 2023/24:

	2021/22	2022/23*	2023/24 (previously proposed)	2023/24 (actual)
CPCF TOTAL	151.2	154.2	154.2	158.85
Professional fees	80	80	80	80
Establishment payments (Dispensing)	17.6	8.9	9	9
Establishment payments (PCCS)	0	8.9	13.3	9
Practice Payment	25.7	12.8	5.1	17.58
“Terms of Service” (paid as practice payment)	0	5.1	5.1	5.1
Collaborative Working	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.8
Quality & Safety	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.20
Continuity	4.3	4.3	0	4.30
Primary Care Collaborative Leads	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Choose Pharmacy Application	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Clinical services including PCCS	11.4	15	16	16.6
Independent Prescribing (IP) services	1	4	12	8.16
IP set-up	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
STTT consumables	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Arrangements for self- isolating patients	5.8	0	0	0
Workforce Enabler (technician funding)	0	4.3	4.3	4.3
Unallocated	0	5.4		
		(added to practice payment)	3.9	0

*Funding for 2022/23 shown in the table is prior to the £3m uplift awarded in August 2022 with the NHS Pay award

Other funding Matters:

Hospital Items:

- From April 2022, any increase in costs associated with hospital items have been excluded from the CPCF calculation and met by health boards. An additional £0.24m has been added to the CPCF in 2022/23.

Compensation Mechanism

- Agreement to review the dispensing compensation mechanism for 22/23
- Agreement to extend the updated mechanism for (at least) the first six months of 23/24
- CPW has submitted a revised proposal to Welsh Government

Essential Small Pharmacy Scheme

- ESPS fees had not been uplifted since 2014
- CPW proposal to increase the fees to a new baseline of £87,925 from 1 April 2023 approved by Welsh Government

OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED:**Terms of Service review**

- To be carried out during 2023/24 to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy and administrative burden.
- Activity relating to the following requirements will continue to be suspended until the outcome of the review is published:
 - Patient Satisfaction Survey (CPPQ)
 - Participation in 6 Public Health Campaigns (excepting requests by WG/ LHBs of health promotion material where there is a clear need to do so)
 - Clinical Audit programmes

Introduction of New Clinical Services

- CPW raised concerns in respect of the introduction of new clinical services with the current workforce and workload issues faced by the network
- Agreement to establish a group to support a critical and planned commissioning approach considering the current issues

Electronic Prescription Service (EPS)

- Agreement that during the roll-out of EPS at any individual community pharmacy flexibilities in reporting of CPCF requirements (e.g. end of month deadlines) can be introduced. Further information to follow once confirmed.

Directed Opening Hours

- CPW raised concerns that due to the lack of funding that more pharmacies may need to look at reviewing their opening hours which may lead to an increased need to direct opening hours.
- CPW raised concerns that current rota fees do not always cover the costs associated with rota and that more contractors may withdraw from rota services leading to an increased need to direct opening hours.
- Agreement that costs for these services above those already being resourced from within the CPCF should be funded from outside of the CPCF.

Contract Monitoring

- Agreement that consideration would be given to the elements of contract monitoring that could be stood down to reduce administrative burden whilst ensuring that governance is still maintained.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

The CPW team are creating Frequently Asked Questions documents to support the implementation of the 2023/24 CPCF.

These will be uploaded to the FAQ section of the website: [here](#)

Please also email info@cpwales.org.uk with any queries