



CONTINUITY SCHEME 2023/24 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What are the requirements for claiming continuity for 2023/24?

A: For 2023-24, monthly continuity data will have to be declared for Contraception Services and CAS availability, and for flu provision between September and December. Contractors will still be able to claim up to £6333.60 per year for availability of these services.

Q: Do continuity requirements fall under establishment payments for 23/24?

A: 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.

Q: How do I claim for continuity?

A: The number of days availability for the previous month is declared monthly on NECAF under the WP34c declaration option. Submission should be made by the 5th day following month of provision; however, the claim will remain open until the end of the month in order to allow for amendments and late submissions

Q: What are this year's continuity payments and thresholds?

A:

- CAS: Where CAS is available for 80% or more of open days in a month: From April to September (inclusive) a payment is made of £263.90, from October to March (inclusive) a payment is made of £158.34
- Flu: This is an all or nothing payment where flu is available for at least one day per month and 40 days between 1 September 2023 and 31 December 2023, £316.68 is available per month

- Contraception Services (includes BOTH EC and Bridging/QuickStart): Where CS is available 80% or more of open days in a month: £263.90 per month April to September (inclusive), £158.34 October to March (inclusive)

Total claimable per month:

	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

Q: Can I claim continuity payments where a service is only available for a part day (due to shift patterns or temporary closures)?

A: No, the Drug Tariff states that the service in question must be able to be accessed for the entire contracted opening hours of the pharmacy on a particular day, to account for a "days" provision

Q: If I am not able to provide the contraception service due to religious grounds am I able to claim continuity payments for this service if I advise patients of alternative sources of supply?

A: No. Continuity payments for contraception and/or flu vaccination services is only claimable for pharmacies who have accredited pharmacists, who are able to provide the service, for given month
The exemption for those pharmacists or contractors with specific religious or personal values and beliefs that influence their day-to-day practice is for sign-up to CCPS.



Q: I/my pharmacist is needle phobic – is there an exemption from the requirements for CCPS sign up and/or continuity payments?

A: No - with respect to Flu, continuity requirements apply to the pharmacy only and are for 40 days provision between September and December (with at least one day of provision per month). It is for contractors to utilise their workforce appropriately to meet these requirements, taking into account needle phobic members of staff.

Claiming for Flu Continuity Payments

Q: What does availability mean in relation to flu and claiming for continuity payments?

A: Contractors should record the number of days that the service was available. For the service to be available three things are required:

1. A trained vaccinator – details on training requirements including BLS can be found on the HEIW website.
2. Stock of vaccine
3. A signed PGD

Q: What if for reasons outside of my control, I cannot comply with the continuity scheme? For example, our pre-ordered flu allocation has not arrived in time in previous years.

A: Where there are circumstances outside of a contractor's control e.g:

1. Local Health Board has not provided the contractor with a PGD but the contractor has both a trained vaccinator (with a signed SLA) and stock of vaccine the contractor can still record these days as the service having been available.
2. Where the contractor has ordered stock (and is able to provide evidence to that effect) but has not been able to secure stock (or stock has been delayed), but has a trained vaccinator, signed SLA and a signed PGD (*if available from the LHB*) the contractor can still record these days as the service having been available.
3. Any other issues believed to be outside of a contractor's control should be discussed with the Local Health Board prior to making the claim through NECAF.



The wording in the Drug Tariff reflects this:

In respect to the Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Service, in circumstances where despite the best endeavours of the pharmacy, the relevant health board has not by 1 September, made arrangements with the pharmacy, or where having placed an order for a vaccine, that order has not yet been delivered to the pharmacy, the pharmacy will be eligible to declare availability on days provided a fully accredited vaccinator is available in the pharmacy.

Q: What records should be kept for the purposes of PPV where continuity cannot be met for reasons outside of our control?

A: Contractors are advised to keep a record of confirmation of details of completion of training requirements and submission through NECAF. Contractors are advised to keep a record of confirmation of orders placed for vaccines – particularly if stock is unavailable.