

Additional Funding agreed for 2023/24



Community
Pharmacy Wales
Fferylliaeth
Gymunedol Cymru

CONTRACTOR NEWS

Additional Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework Funding 2023/24

Contractors will be aware that in reaching agreement for the CPCF for 2023/24 earlier in the year, Welsh Government committed to revisit the overall funding for community pharmacies following the publication of the NHS pay review which reported in the summer.

Following discussions between Welsh Government and Community Pharmacy Wales, the CPW Board has agreed an offer of an additional £6.3m recurrent funding for 2023/24 – bringing the baseline funding up to £165.1m the equivalent of 5% increase on last year the same as has been offered to all NHS Wales employees.

Whilst this increase is less than CPW had originally asked for in the 2023/24 negotiations and is a below inflation offer it is significantly better than the 1% previously provided and as an equivalent to that offered elsewhere in the NHS in Wales was accepted by the Board. It is hoped that this additional funding will go towards easing the significant financial pressures that the community pharmacy network has been facing.

Contractors will be aware that the majority of Clinical Service fees and those related to Quality & Safety and collaborative working have already been uplifted by 5%, the Independent prescribing fees (excluding the £25 fee/ consultation for below the minimum/ above the maximum) will also be uplifted in the near future.

The majority of the additional funding has been allocated to practice payment and will be paid against items dispensed in quarter 3 and quarter 4, to enable funding to be paid to contractors as soon as possible it has been agreed to front weight the practice payment. The Drug Tariff will be updated for January 2024 to show the changes to practice payment, details of the changes are included in Appendix 1.

Funding in relation to the roll-out of the Electronic Prescribing Service has also been agreed as part of the 2023/24 funding offer. Funding for EPS will include:

- A one-off payment of £1250 per pharmacy on submission of the first EPS prescription (funding from outside of the CPCF)
- An additional 1p per prescription allocated to professional fees to acknowledge the additional printing costs for pharmacies. This funding to commence in April 2024 for two years (funding from within the CPCF)
- An additional £750 per pharmacy for three years 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 in recognition of the additional costs incurred for pharmacies to

become EPS-ready (further detail to follow in respect of the declaration required) (funding from within the CPCF)

As discussed at the recent CPW contractor events, CPW have recently started the tripartite negotiation process with Welsh Government and NHS Wales for the 2024/25 CPCF. Details will be shared with the network as soon as possible, this is likely to be the end of January 2024 at the earliest.

JUDY MISRA
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE

30 November 2023

APPENDIX 1

Quarter 3 Practice payment:

Practice payments from 1 October 2023 to 31 December 2023, which includes a contribution for provision of auxiliary aids for people eligible under the Equality Act 2010 (EA) and, will be set out in the table below:

| Number of items per month | Practice Payment from 1 October 2023 to 31 December 2023 | Contribution in practice payment for EA from 1 October 2023 to 31 December 2023 |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| Up to 1,099 | £150 | £150 |
| 1,100 - 1,499 | £1,370 | £300 |
| 1,500 - 2,499 | £1,914 | £375 |
| 2,500+ | 52.2p per item | 6.6p per item |

Quarter 4 Practice payment:

Practice payments from 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024, which includes a contribution for provision of auxiliary aids for people eligible under the Equality Act 2010 (EA) and, will be set out in the table below:

| Number of items per month | Practice Payment from 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024 | Contribution in practice payment for EA from 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024 |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| Up to 1,099 | £150 | £150 |
| 1,100 - 1,499 | £1,370 | £300 |
| 1,500 - 2,499 | £1,914 | £375 |
| 2,500+ | 38.2p per item | 6.6p per item |