



Dear Colleague

## COMMUNITY PHARMACY SERVICES: ePHARMACY PROGRAMME PAYMENTS

### Purpose

1. This circular advises NHS Boards and community pharmacy contractors of claims arrangements and payment timings in respect of:

- electronic transfer of prescription (ETP) infrastructure support payments; and,
- eClaim payments for processing prescriptions electronically.

### Background

2. Paragraph 29 of the Appendix to Circular [PCA\(P\)\(2007\)10](#) announced two Infrastructure Support payments to encourage and support community pharmacy contractors to install, operate and maintain the software that supports ETP within their PMR systems.

3. Circular [PCA\(P\)\(2007\)24](#) provided details of a time limited scheme under which contractors receive payments for processing prescriptions electronically.

### Claim arrangements

#### *ETP infrastructure support payments*

4. The payment of the Infrastructure Support payments will be triggered by an ePharmacy Message Store Report extracted by Practitioner Services Division on the first day of each month detailing which community pharmacies have installed the software the previous month. This will be used by PSD to, in turn, instigate the appropriate payment to the pharmacy contractor.

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#### Addresses

For action  
Chief Executives, NHS Boards

For information  
Chief Executive, NHS NSS

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#### Enquiries to:

Policy Questions

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5. The timing of payments will be as follows:

Date of Installation of ETP software	Amounts Due	When Paid	How Paid
Before 1 Feb 2008	£250 for eAMS functionality	With payment made at end of March 2008	As a special adjustment
	£100 pm ongoing for infrastructure costs	With payment made at end of March 2008	As a special adjustment
Before 1 March 2008	£250 for eAMS functionality	With payment made at the end of April 2008	As a special adjustment
	£100 pm ongoing for infrastructure costs	With payment made at end of May for March 2008 dispensing	On payment schedule for March 2008
From 1 March 2008 onwards	£250 for eAMS functionality	With payment for the month in which software installed e.g. installed in March, paid with March prescriptions, payment made at end of May	On payment schedule for relevant month.
	£100 pm ongoing for infrastructure costs	With payment for the month after that in which the software was installed e.g. installed in March, paid with April prescriptions, payment made in June	On payment schedule for relevant month

The recurring payments will continue on a monthly basis until further notice provided eAMS functionality is maintained.

Contractors should note that the £250 non-recurring payment for the successful software installation and operation of ETP software is only available for ETP software installed before the end of September 2008.

*eClaim payments for processing prescriptions electronically*

8. The eClaim payment for each month will be calculated automatically by PSD based on ePharmacy Message Store (ePMS) data for that month. [The eClaim payment will be then be reported on the monthly remuneration report \(PAY 002\) for that month.](#)

9. The Drug Tariff is hereby amended to give effect to the terms of this Circular, the contents of which have been agreed with Community Pharmacy Scotland.

**Action**

10. **NHS Boards are to copy this Circular to all community pharmacy contractors on their pharmaceutical list.**

11. **Community Pharmacy contractors should ensure ETP software delivering eAMS functionality is in place as soon as possible to qualify for these incentive payments.**

Yours sincerely

**DR JONATHAN PRYCE**  
Deputy Director