NHS Circular:
PCA(P)(2012) 18

Health & Healthcare Improvement Directorate
Pharmacy & Medicines Division

The Scottish Government

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Addresses

For action
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For information
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Dear Colleague

Community Pharmacy Services: Drug Tariff Changes – Phasing Payment (CMS)

Summary

1. This Circular advises of amendments to the Drug Tariff, in respect of the Phasing Payment (CMS) for dispensing months from 1 October 2012.

Background

2. NHS Circular PCA(P)(2012)14 advised of amendments to the Drug Tariff in respect of arrangements for community pharmacy remuneration for 2012-2013.

3. In particular it advised of arrangements in respect of a new 'Phasing Payment (CMS)', and that for the dispensing months October 2012-March 2013 to receive this payment contractors would need to comply with any requirements relating to the rollout of CMS which their NHS Board may lay down and promulgate separately.

4. The purpose of these changes is to get the best care for patients during the roll out by contractors of the administrative arrangements for CMS by monitoring the achievement by contractors of certain quality measures relating to patient assessment and patient use of both New Medicines and High Risk medicines.

5. It has therefore now been decided that the requirements relating to the rollout of CMS should be nationally consistent but that Boards should still be responsible for monitoring individual contractor compliance and approving payments according to a laid down protocol. The Drug Tariff has accordingly been updated in respect of arrangements for this payment for dispensing months October 2012 – March 2013 as detailed below.

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Details

6. For the dispensing months October - December 2012 payments to contractors will be made at the revised i.e. lower rate as detailed in paragraph 26 of the Appendix to PCA(P)(2012)8. For this 3 month period these payments will again be made automatically.

7. For the dispensing months January- March 2013 the following arrangements will apply:

i. For each contractor eligible to receive the Phasing Payment (CMS) in accordance with the criteria laid down in paragraph 26 of the Appendix to NHS Circular PCA(P)(2012)8, a ***target monthly phasing payment (CMS***) will be set at the same level as the Phasing Payment (CMS) in force for that contractor for the dispensing month of December 2012.

ii. To be eligible to receive this target payment at the full rate the contractor concerned will need to satisfy the following activity criteria:

1. 95% of all patients registered for CMS have been assessed in accordance with Paragraph 19 of the appendix to PCA(P)(2012)8.
2. A minimum of four High Risk medicines interventions have been completed*
3. A minimum of four New Medicine interventions have been completed*

* As the size and circumstances of each community pharmacy contractor vary, each NHS Board will have the discretion to accept extenuating circumstances where a community pharmacy contractor can provide evidence that the pharmacy does not have sufficient patients to meet the target numbers.

To encourage consistency of application each Board will perform the following specific checks to determine whether each contractor has met the stated criteria.

Criterion 1

Check A - Between 1 January and 28 February 2013 Boards will check contractors' performance with respect to all patients registered at 31st October 2012.

Check B - Between 1 March and 31 May 2013 Boards will check contractors' performance with respect to all patients registered at 31st January 2013

Criterion 2

Check C - In April 2013 Boards will check if contractors have met the requirement of having carried out and completed at least 4 High Risk interventions by end March 2013

Criterion 3

Check D - In April 2013 Boards will check if contractors have met the requirement of having carried out and completed at least 4 New Medicines interventions by end March 2013.

Each check will be carried out once only.

iii. The level of payment for each month will depend on the performance of the contractor against the particular checks as detailed in the table below.

Dispensing Month	Report issued by PSD to Board	Notification by Board to PSD	Payment Due	Check applied	Criterion scrutinised by NHS Board	Criterion Met ?	
						Yes	No
January 2013	14th February 2013	28th February 2013	End of March 2013	Check A -	95% of patients registered up to 31 October 2012 have been assessed	CMS Phasing Payment authorised	CMS Phasing Payment paid less 25%
February 2013	14th March 2013	28th March 2013	End of April 2013	Check A	95% of patients registered up to 31 October 2012 have been assessed	CMS Phasing Payment authorised	CMS Phasing Payment paid less 25%
March 2013	14th April 2013	28th April 2013	End of May 2013	Check B	95% of patients registered up to 31 January 2013 have been assessed	Target CMS Phasing Payment made	First reduction of 25% applied to provisional payment at end of June 2013
				Check C	Minimum of 4 high risk medicine interventions carried out and completed *	Target CMS Phasing Payment made	Second reduction of 25% applied to provisional payment at end of June 2013
				Check D	Minimum of 4 new medicine interventions carried out and completed *	Target CMS Phasing Payment made	Third reduction of 25% applied to provisional payment at end of June 2013

* unless extenuating circumstances are agreed

The effect of the application of Checks B, C and D is cumulative. Contractors who fail to meet all 3 criteria will see their target payment reduced by 75%.

No retrospective payments will be made.

The process and timetable for Boards to confirm contractor payment instructions to PSD is detailed in the Annex.

In any case where the Board does not provide payment instructions to PSD by the date specified, a provisional payment equal to the target payment will be made for the month concerned and any overpayment recovered from the payment to the contractor concerned for the subsequent dispensing month.

CMS Phasing Payments (CMS) form part of the community pharmacy Global Sum and any resulting aggregate underpayment will be managed within the overall 2012-13 Global Sum management arrangements.

Individual contractors will be able to monitor their progress in respect of Checks A -D by contacting the ePharmacy Helpdesk.

Drug Tariff Amendment

7. Community Pharmacy Scotland has been consulted on the contents of this Circular and the Drug Tariff has been amended giving effect to the amendments advised by this Circular.

8. Details on arrangements which will apply from April 2013 onwards will be promulgated in due course.

Action

9. **NHS Boards are asked to bring this Circular to the attention of community pharmacy contractors, local pharmacy committees, and Community Health Partnerships.**

10. **Directors of Finance at NHS Boards to nominate who in the Board should receive progress reports to authorise adjustment to payments and to inform PSD Pharmacy Payments by email** NSS.psd-pharmacy-payments@nhs.net

11. **NHS Boards are also to submit payment instructions to PSD in accordance with the timetable detailed in the Annex.**

Yours sincerely

Bill Scott
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer and
Deputy Director, Pharmacy & Medicines Division

ANNEX

PROCEDURE AND TIMETABLE FOR HEALTH BOARD CHECKS AND PAYMENT ADVICE TO PSD

The performance of each contractor against criterion 1 will be measured and reported to each NHS Board by a monthly report out of the patient registration system (PRS)

The performance of each contractor against criteria 2-3 will be measured and reported to each NHS Board through a monthly report out of PCR

Report formats required by PSD from all NHS Boards

Reports to be sent to:

PSD Pharmacy Payments NSS.psd-pharmacy-payments@nhs.net

The report should be sent by email to Moira Hanley as a spreadsheet for each dispensing month detailing the following for contractors in the Board that fail to achieve one or more of check A-D

- Dispensing month
- contractor code
- Percentage of payment to be recovered

Dispensing Month	Report issued by PSD to Board	Notification by Board to PSD	Payment Due
January 2013	14th February 2013	28th February 2013	End of March 2013
February 2013	14th March 2013	28th March 2013	End of April 2013
March 2013	14th April 2013	28th April 2013	End of May 2013