



# Daily Update

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020

This daily update contains important information for community pharmacy teams about the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## In today's update: bandings for Part 2 PQS and FAQ about being unable to open a pharmacy.

### Part 2 PQS contractor bandings published

Pharmacy contractors will already be aware that a new approach to allocating the funding has been introduced in the Part 2 Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) for 2020/21, with each domain having points allocated to it, but these varying dependent on the prescription volume of the contractor.

This change has been introduced to better recognise the varying workload and hence costs incurred by different contractors complying with the requirements of the scheme. While some costs will be common to contractors of all sizes, most of the elements of this new scheme involve variability of costs related to the number of staff employed at the pharmacy and staffing levels generally vary in relation to prescription volume.

Each PQS domain has a varying number of points dependent on the participating contractor's total prescription volume in 2019/20; each contractor is placed in one of the six volume bands set out in tables that are available on the PSNC news story below, based on their 2019/20 prescription volume.

So that contractors can be sure of which volume band they sit within the scheme, the NHSBSA has now published their allocation of contractors to the bands. You can view these on the link below.

[View the contractor bandings](#)

Have you seen our latest FAQs?

PSNC's website has a large number of answers to queries posed by pharmacy contractors, their teams and LPCs; these are updated on a regular basis. Recent additions include:

#### **Q. What happens if I lose staff to illness or self-isolation and can't open my pharmacy?**

NHSE&I has stated that for temporary closures, for instance where not enough staff are available to work, NHSE&I must be informed immediately. The pharmacy NHS 111 Directory of Services (DoS) profile must be updated, as must the pharmacy profile on the NHS website (see the [NHS website](#)). NHSE&I also encourages local pharmacies to work together to maintain continuity of services in the event of temporary closures.

**The CCA and NPA have issued recent business continuity advice** and PSNC provides advice on maintaining pharmacy services during the outbreak and a checklist for emergency closures on its **COVID hub network resilience page**.

**Keep up-to-date on COVID-19 with our hub page: [psnc.org.uk/coronavirus](https://psnc.org.uk/coronavirus)**

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