

Blood Pressure Check Service: IT system Update

To: Community Pharmacy Contractors,

IT system Update

In June, we announced that pharmacy owners will be required to use an approved clinical IT system for recording clinical records and payment claims for the Hypertension case-finding service, starting from September 1, 2023.

We are pleased to inform you that four suppliers are on track to complete assurance for the Blood Pressure Check Service consultation template and the Data & Payment API (Application Programming Interface) this week. The following are the systems and suppliers:

System and supplier
<u>HxConsult (Positive Solutions)</u>
<u>Pharmacy Manager (Cegedim)</u>
<u>PharmOutcomes (Pinnacle Health)</u>
<u>Sonar health (Sonar informatics)</u>

Using these assured systems will enable pharmacy teams to record blood pressure checks in real time and simplify the monthly claims process.

Effective from September 1, all payment claims for the service must be made using an assured IT system (using the API). There will be no manual option available for claiming service provisions.

Suppliers will provide contractors with information about the changes and how to use the new system to record blood pressure checks and process claims by the end of this month.

What to do if you do not have an assured IT system

If you do not currently have an assured IT system, you will need to arrange for one to be put in place before the end of September. This will ensure you can submit your Blood Pressure Check Service claims and receive reimbursement for them. Please contact the suppliers directly to discuss their systems and decide which you would like to choose¹. Having a system in place by 1 September will allow you to:

- ✓ record blood pressure checks directly into the clinical system; and
- ✓ automatically collate all activity (from September onwards) and easily submit your claims.

¹ [NHSX publishes new CPCS Buyers Guide - Community Pharmacy England \(cpe.org.uk\)](#)

Your suppliers will be able to advise about the terms of use and the process for switching systems, if required.

Claims up to and including 31 August 2023:

Please continue with the current process of inputting activity information into the NHSBSA's Manage Your Service (MYS) platform. The current MYS input screens for the service will be retired at 23:59 on 31 August 2023. To claim for activity entered before, up to and including 31 August, you will need to submit your declaration and claim via MYS between 1 September and 5 September.

What to do from 1 September 2023:

You will need to begin using the new consultation template to record Blood Pressure Checks. This template will already be embedded in the systems of the assured suppliers. You can also use your IT system (and the new consultation template) to record any backdated Blood Pressure Checks conducted within the three months prior to 31 August and not entered on MYS before the retirement of the MYS input screen on 31 August at 23:59.

Once you save a consultation in your clinical IT system, the API will automatically prepopulate MYS. This submission can include any backdated activity within the three months before 31 August, which you can claim for within the September 'claim window'.

Claims should be made within one month of, and no later than three months from the claim period for the chargeable activity provided.

Contractors will still need to submit their declaration and claim via MYS during the claim window of the 1st to the 5th of each month.

Full details (correspondence sent in June 2023):

When the Blood Pressure Check Service was first launched in October 2021, following agreement with Community Pharmacy England (CPE), the ambition was to develop IT systems that would support provision of the service.

These IT systems will ensure that contractors can effectively record the correct consultation data as per the service specification. That data will then be used by the IT system to populate a claim for payment within the NHSBSA's Manage Your Service (MYS) platform without needing to manually transcribe data or access multiple systems. That is what already happens for the Community Pharmacist Consultation Service, Pharmacy Contraception Service and the Flu vaccination service.

Implementation of the API for the Blood Pressure Check Service

The transfer of data to the MYS platform will be via an API to automate payment claims and reporting of the data to the NHSBSA. The data which is submitted to the MYS platform via the API will be used by the NHSBSA to pay contractors for provision of the service and also for post-payment verification purposes.

The IT systems, including the APIs, must meet minimum requirements specified within NHS IT technical toolkits. It was agreed that once such IT systems are available, contractors must utilise one of these systems within the timeframe agreed by NHS England, DHSC and CPE. The service specification for the Blood Pressure Check Service has recently been updated to reflect this.

The NHSBSA are currently working with clinical pharmacy system suppliers to assure their Blood Pressure Check Service modules, including the APIs. This work is progressing well and **the target 'go live' date for the modules and API is 1 September 2023.**

This email is to notify pharmacy contractors that are registered to provide the Blood Pressure Check Service that once the clinical systems go live, the use of one of them will become mandatory and the existing manual MYS claim process for the service will be retired.

It is expected that all payment claims for the service from 1 September will need to be made via the API and there will be no manual option to claim for service provisions. Pharmacy contractors will need to use an approved clinical system to make their clinical records and payment claims for the service from 1 September.

Through the transfer of data via the API, service provisions in September will be available to view in MYS from Sunday 1 October. Contractors will then need to log into the MYS platform to check that the data matches the details in their IT system, and they will then need to submit their claim for payment.

All service provisions within June, July and August 2023 must be claimed by the current manual MYS process by Tuesday 5 September; claims at a later date will not be possible via that route.

Development of APIs for the other clinical services

Further work is scheduled this year to ensure that all the current advanced services are supported by an API and the existing manual payment claim processes are retired. The current timescale is as follows and will be confirmed as suppliers continue to engage with the development work:

- New Medicine Service - Q3 of 23/24
- Smoking Cessation Service - Q4 of 23/24

The NHSBSA have also recently engaged with the supplier market on the development of an API to support the Discharge Medicines Service. As this is an essential service that pharmacy contractors must provide, we have undertaken additional engagement with the wider IT system supplier market on this and we will confirm timescales for the implementation in due course.

For further information on IT solutions, please contact your system provider.

If you need any MYS assistance, please contact the NHSBSA MYS Helpdesk by email at nhsbsa.mys@nhs.net or call 0300 330 1368.

Updating your NHS website and DoS profiles

NHS Profile Manager has recently been updated so it now allows pharmacy contractors to indicate that they provide the Blood Pressure Check Service.

Contractors registered to provide the service should update their information on the 'Services' set up page by selecting the 'NHS Blood Pressure Check Service' check box under the heading 'NHS pharmacy services'.