

# Prescribing Quality Scheme (PQS)

## Variation Summary Oct 24



### Introduction

In recognition that the Prescribing Quality Scheme (PQS) was drafted and approved in Feb 24 and subsequent changes to pricing of medicines and other technical queries, the Medicines team at NHS Dorset has revisited elements of the scheme to realign the objectives with its original intentions in light of these changes.

### Summary of changes

- An additional advanced payment of 17.8p per weighted patient paid to PCNs in October 2024 to enable the continued trajectory of improvement in financial stewardship outlined in appendix F of the scheme.
- Financial stewardship achievement payment target has been revised for PCNs where overspend was above 7.0% in 23/24. Target achievement updated to 0-3.5% of 24/25 budget.
- Low acuity prescribing (over the counter medicines, NHSE 2018) benchmark changed from an annual spend of £24 per year per patients IMD score to £40 per year per patients IMD score, to reflect best performance.
- Rivaroxaban added to Apixaban as first line option for new patients diagnosed with AF, to increase compliance for PCNs and reflect changes in national procurement policy.
- Requirement to work with community dietician to deliver a 15% reduction in oral nutritional feed supplementation removed from Appendix F, due to workforce shortage.
- Lowered target. CVD prevent and inequality in hypertension case finding target has been reduced from 30 cases to 5 of Hypertension or Atrial fibrillation per 10,000 identified in light of data transfer issues identified by NHSE.
- For practices in East Dorset not downloading blood results from ICE, a spot audit in Q4 of monitoring safety of DMARDs will qualify for payment.

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4/10/24