

Community pharmacy funding cuts 2016/17: final package (Asthma reviews)

Introduction

In October 2016, the Department of Health (DH) imposed its "[Community pharmacy in 2016/17 and beyond: Final package](#)" on community pharmacy in England. As part of this package, it is introducing a quality payments scheme. This resource sets out the key points that pharmacy contractors need to know about meeting the asthma review criterion for the quality payments scheme. We have provided a model procedure and referral log to help you meet this criterion. The NPA has also produced the "[Managing COPD in community pharmacy: Resources for pharmacists](#)" pack that can be used in addition to the information in this resource for aspects such as inhaler technique.

Key points

The aim of the clinical effectiveness asthma review criterion is to refer patients with asthma who have had more than six short acting bronchodilator inhalers dispensed without a corticosteroid inhaler in the last six months. Eligible patients should be referred back to their GP surgery for a review.

Meeting this criterion will allow contractors to achieve 10 quality points at each review point (20 points in total); achieving all the available points for this criterion will be worth a minimum of £1,280.

Why is it important?

Asthma is a long term condition that affects 5.4 million people in the United Kingdom. [The British Thoracic Society/Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network \(BTS/SIGN\)](#) have stated that increased use of beta-2 agonist inhalers has been associated with asthma death; therefore it is important that patients are appropriately monitored if they are regularly using reliever inhalers.

Which patients are eligible?

Patients will be considered eligible for referral if all of the following applies:

1. They have been diagnosed with asthma
2. They have been prescribed an inhaler containing one of the following short-acting bronchodilators:
 - Short-acting beta-2 agonist
 - Ipratropium bromide
3. They have been prescribed more than six inhalers containing a short acting bronchodilator in the last six months
4. Inhaled corticosteroid therapy has not been prescribed during this six month period

How to meet the criterion?

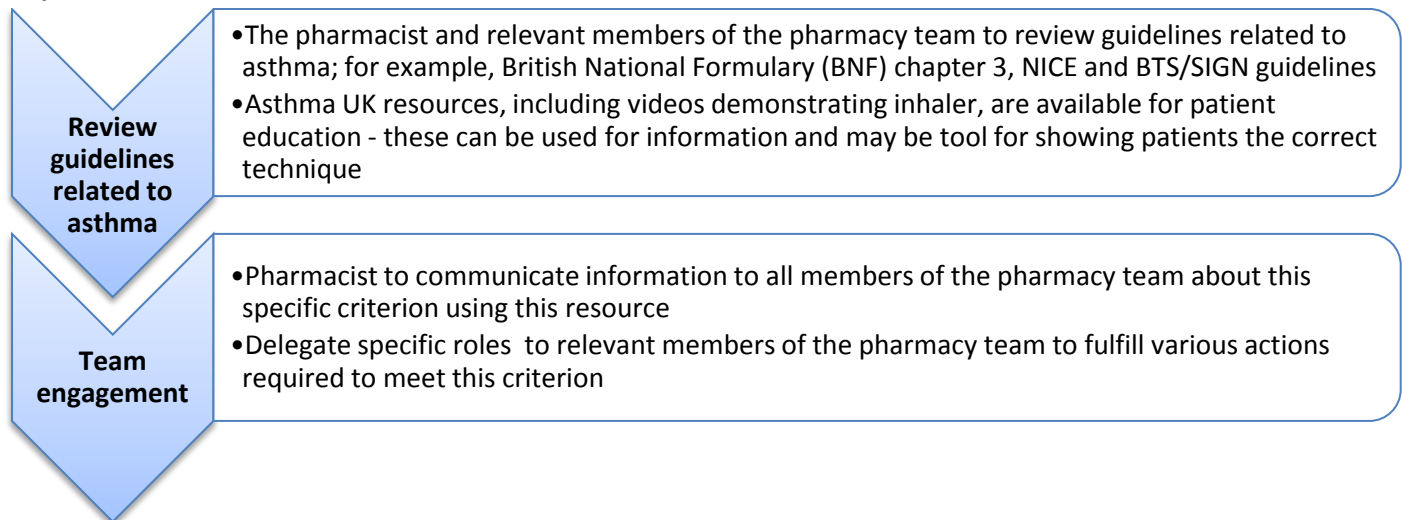
- ✓ The pharmacy team should identify potential patients that meet this criterion
 - This can be done when a prescription for a suitable inhaler is received and checking the patient medication record (PMR) to see if the patient is eligible
- ✓ The pharmacist should speak directly with the patient to understand their inhaler use
 - At this stage, if appropriate, the patient should be invited for a Medicines Use Review (MUR) or their inhaler technique should be checked
 - Resources, such as the [Asthma UK inhaler technique videos](#), can be used to support patient learning
 - If during this consultation, it is discovered that there may be an issue with the patient treatment, then a referral should be made to their GP, with the patient's consent and using a referral system agreed with the surgery prior to commencing the service
- ✓ All referrals should be documented on the patients PMR
 - It may also be appropriate to use a data collection form as evidence for the criterion being met

How much is the payment?

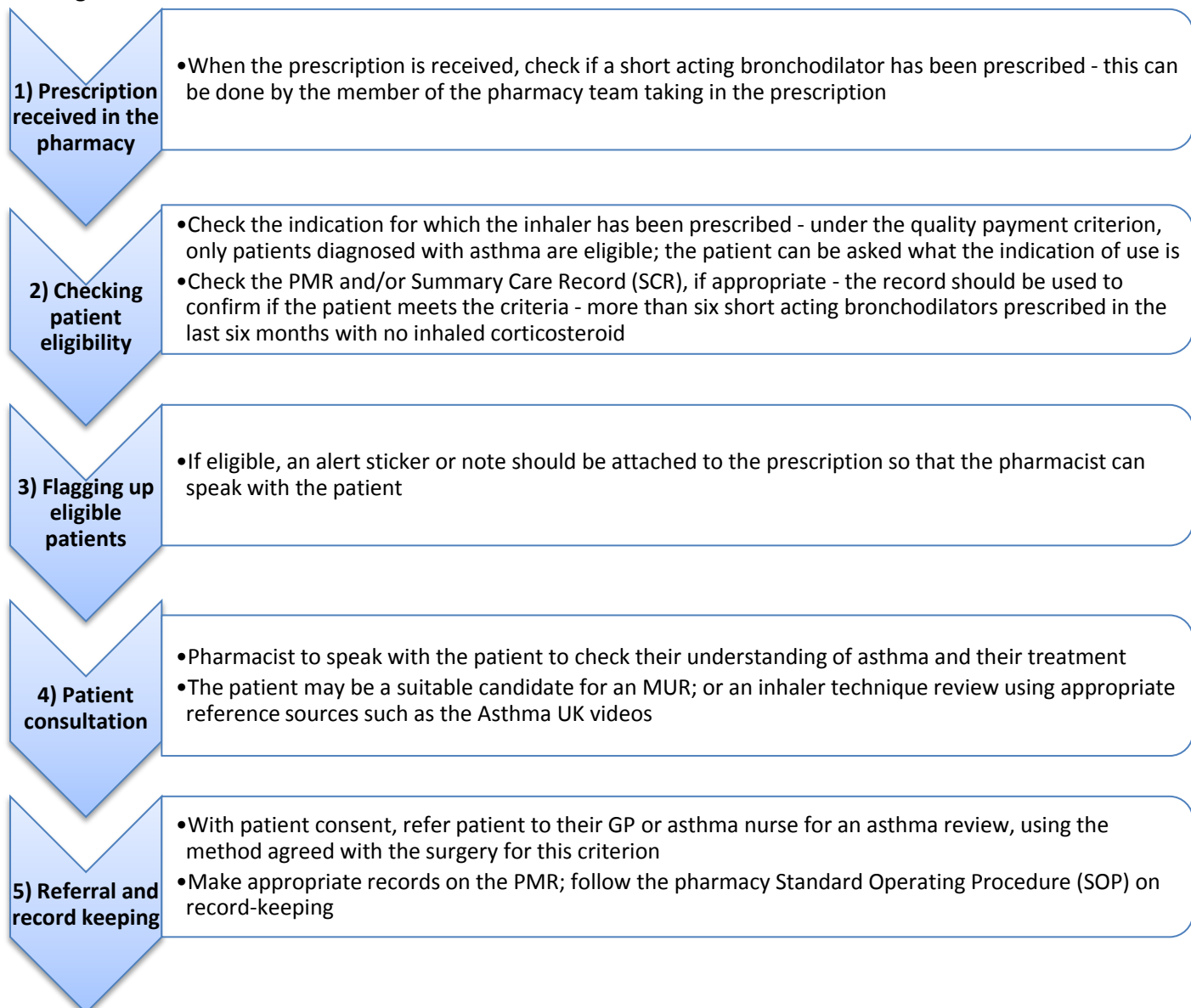
Eligible pharmacies will receive a minimum of £640 at each of the two review points (£1,280 in total). This amount may increase dependent on whether a reconciliation payment is received in March 2018. Further information can be found in the "[NPA Community pharmacy funding cuts 2016/17: final package \(quality payments scheme\)](#)" factsheet.

Model procedure

Preparation



Meeting the criterion



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Top tips

- ✓ Ensure staff are aware of the criterion and how to identify eligible patients
- ✓ Make contemporaneous notes showing when eligible patients are identified and referred to their GP
- ✓ If the criterion is met, ensure a claim is submitted at both review points

References and further reading

- Asthma UK – Using your inhalers
<https://www.asthma.org.uk/advice/inhalers-medicines-treatments/using-inhalers/>
- British Thoracic Society/Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (BTS/SIGN) — British guideline on the management of asthma: A national clinical guideline:
<https://www.brit-thoracic.org.uk/standards-of-care/guidelines/btssign-british-guideline-on-the-management-of-asthma/>
- Department of Health “Community pharmacy in 2016/17 and beyond: Final package”:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-pharmacy-reforms>
- National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) — *Asthma: Quality standard*:
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs25>
- National Pharmacy Association (NPA) — “Community pharmacy funding cuts 2016/17: final package (quality payments scheme)”:
<https://www.npa.co.uk/services/the-pharmacy-imposition/quality-payment-scheme/>

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