

Briefing: Contractor Claims for COVID Costs

PSNC has accepted an offer from HM Government that will allow all community pharmacy contractors in England to claim for their COVID-related costs.

The CEO of PSNC, Simon Dukes, has made the following statement:

“Our focus must now turn to helping contractors to make robust claims that cover as many of their costs as they can: there is work for PSNC to do to help, but also work for contractors to do to think carefully about this and to make claims that are as complete and accurate as they can be”.

It is critical that every contractor who has borne costs makes a claim – they need this money, and we need them to show HM Government the sorts of costs that pharmacies have absorbed, in good faith, to help the NHS through this crisis.”

PSNC briefings and FAQs can be found [here](#).

Any contractor (with a current ODS code) that incurred additional COVID-19 related costs between 1st March 2020 and 31st March 2021 can make a claim by completing the NHSBSA’s COVID cost claim form.

What can contractors claim?

- Contractors can claim for a range of costs incurred over a 13-month period
- Payments to be made in October ahead of the sector paying back £370m Advance Payments
- Terms of loan repayments will depend on the amounts claimed, and this is subject to some further negotiation

DHSC has set out four categories of COVID-related costs that can be claimed for as follows:

1. Additional staff costs due to COVID-19;
2. Costs incurred to make premises COVID-19 secure;
3. IT and communication costs to support home working and virtual patient contact; and
4. Notified closures for infection control purposes (maximum 14 days).

A **Drug Tariff determination** sets out the details of the deal and provides further guidance on the cost categories that can be claimed. **Click [here](#) to access the guidance.**

Community pharmacy contractors can claim for specific categories of COVID-19 related costs incurred **between 1st March 2020 and 31st March 2021** for the delivery of NHS pharmaceutical services.

When can I make the claim?

The six-week period for community pharmacy contractors to claim for the extra costs they incurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic begins on **Monday 5th July 2021**.

Contractors will make their claims via a [form](#) to be submitted to the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) **between 5th July and 15th August 2021**.

DHSC will then process the claims and contractors will be paid for their COVID costs in their 1st October payment.

DHSC will also begin taking back repayments of the £370m Advance Payments received last year. The details of this are subject to some further negotiation once DHSC and PSNC have seen the likely quantum of the claims payment and considered cashflow, but contractors should be prepared to begin making repayments from October.

How do I make the claim?

As mentioned above the NHSBSA have provided a form that needs to be completed. **Find the form [here](#).**

The NHSBSA claim form asks contractors to set out their costs according to these categories and to indicate the evidence they have for them. DHSC has not set out detailed evidence requirements so this will need careful thought, particularly as contractors will also need to provide documentation to evidence their claims should the NHSBSA ask to see it.

Contractors with two or more branches will be able to submit a single claim and provide documentation to evidence claims at a company level.

Completed claims forms should be emailed to nhsbsa.covidclaims@nhs.net by **11.59pm on 15th August 2021**. Details, plus the NHSBSA support address (which is the same as the submission address), are available [here](#).

Further guidance on the claim process and the form can be found [here](#)

Useful Resources

- [PSNC briefings and FAQs](#)
- [COVID-19 Costs: PSNC reaches deal with HM Government](#)
- [Funding for COVID-19 related costs – summary and FAQs](#)
- [COVID-19 Costs: Claiming period begins](#)