



PQS Piece by Piece (25/26) – Domain 2a

Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) Audit Guidance (Pharmacy First Consultations)

Overview

Contractors must complete a clinical audit, which will concern the clinical advice and consultations provided to patients scoring FeverPAIN 0-3 on the Pharmacy First Sore Throat clinical pathway. Any patients previously seen for the same episode of sore throat who re-present to the pharmacy should not be included in the audit data collection for a second time. The pharmacy must have completed the audit, sharing their anonymised data with NHS England

Contents

5 standards that must be assessed for each consultation:				
Standard 1 A copy of the TARGET Treating your infection – respiratory tract infection (RTI) For community pharmacy leaflet is used in the consultation with the patient and is given to the patient (or sent to them, in the case of remote consultations).	Standard 2 The consultation includes the provision of advice on the natural history and average length of sore throat symptoms.	Standard 3 The consultation includes the provision of advice on when to re-consult if symptoms do not resolve.	Standard 4 The consultation includes the provision of general information on AMS, antibiotic use and resistance.	Standard 5 Face-to-face consultations with patients with a FeverPAIN score of 2 or 3 (and which therefore pass a Gateway point in the Pharmacy First clinical pathway) include an examination of the patient's throat and neck, as recommended by NICE CKS . Note: This standard does not apply to remote consultations.

Actions

Details:		Suggested Actions:
When?	This should be conducted from 1st September 2025 and completed no later than 31st March 2026	
How long?	The audit must be carried out with a minimum of 10 patients over 4 weeks, or over an 8-week period if 10 patients are not achieved Contractors should choose an 8-week consecutive period between the audit launch and 3rd February 2026 to commence the data collection (please ensure you complete the audit no later than 31st March 2026)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record start and end dates of audit
Data capture?	The information that needs to be submitted to NHS England is included in the audit document, which will be accessible from the NHSBSA website here	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record data on NHSBSA's audit document available here: https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/pharmacy-quality-scheme-2025-26-antimicrobial-stewardship-clinical-audit-sore-throat-consultations/
Data submission?	This data captured in the audit document (to be available on NHSBSA website) must be reported on the MYS data collection tool. You must submit the audit to qualify for payment – data entry alone is not sufficient <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No patient identifiable data should be entered onto the MYS data collection tool. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit data via MYS Make sure you have received an email from MYS confirming successful submission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you do not receive a confirmation email after submitting your audit, check junk/spam folders. If still not received within 1 hour of submission, contact: pharmacysupport@nhsbsa.nhs.uk
Lessons learned?	Following on from this is incorporating any learnings from the audit into future practice by the end of 31st March 2026.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record any interventions on patients' PMRs Record team meeting notes reflecting discussion of learning and future practice changes Updated SOPs if applicable

Start the audit early to avoid delays or insufficient data!