Guidance Document: Community Pharmacy System Innovation Fund (CPSIF)

1. Summary

Life Sciences Hub Wales (LSHW) are administering the CPSIF grant fund in collaboration with the Digital Medicines Transformation Portfolio (which is hosted by Digital Health and Care Wales) on behalf of the Welsh Government.

UK registered businesses, with the potential to supply an EPS-ready dispensing system in Wales, can apply for a total grant of up to £111,562.50 across three tiers to enable electronic transfer of prescriptions in Wales. Funding is available to develop the systems required to digitalise community pharmacy in Wales and support activities to implement electronic prescription service (EPS), which result in the successful processing of a live EPS prescription in Wales via an assured patient medication record (PMR) system (tier 1, up to £55,781). Applicants can optionally request support to develop and implement changes that would minimise the requirements for paper use in pharmacies in Wales resulting in demonstration of a paperless prescription journey (tier 2, up to £27,891), and/or to develop a mechanism from within the PMR that generates a push notification to the NHS Wales App to advise patients that medicines are ready to collect (including pharmacy location and opening hours) (tier 3, up to £27,891.50):

Tier	Requirement	Mandatory	Maximum award per beneficiary*
1	Implement electronic prescription service	Υ	£55,781
2	Paperless prescription journey	Ν	£27,891
3	Push notification to NHS Wales App	Ν	£27,891.50

*Please note that the maximum available per beneficiary for all three tiers is £111,562.50.

Any queries should be addressed to <u>fundingsupport@lshubwales.com</u>.

Grant funding is available at up to 100% of eligible project costs (maximum funding available per tier are in the table above). The grant is intended to act as an incentive to companies to develop their systems to enable the roll out of EPS in Wales. Additional costs will need to be funded through alternative sources.

The number of applications per company are not restricted, but successful applicants will not be able to make multiple applications for funding tiers in which they have previously been awarded funding.

You should apply in the first instance for as many tiers as possible, however, should you only be able to apply for tier 1 initially, you will be able to submit an application for tier(s) 2 and/or 3, dependent upon your success in applying for tier 1.

Applicants are strongly advised to refer to this guidance document while developing their application and to pay particular attention to the scope and eligibility criteria for the programme.

Applications may be submitted in Welsh. Any application submitted in Welsh will be treated no less favourably than an application submitted in English.

2. Introduction

During September 2021, the Minister for Health and Social Services set out an ambition for a comprehensive medicines plan for Wales and requested that DHCW establish the Digital Medicines Transformation Portfolio (DMTP). The DMTP will "transform prescribing in Wales, supported by a digital platform" and coordinates four interrelated areas of work: **Primary care electronic prescription service (EPS)**, secondary care electronic prescribing and medicines record. The programme will ensure that citizens receive services which deliver the best outcomes and are designed around their requirements and will deliver additional benefits including cost savings for the NHS and reduce the carbon footprint of prescribing.

To support the development and roll out of an EPS system in primary care, community pharmacy systems must be developed to support the EPS functionality which is already in use in England. Community pharmacies will require funding for business change as well as staff training to support adoption new systems which will be delivered via a one-off uplift to the Drug Tariff.

Community pharmacy system suppliers will need to update their systems to support the EPS, and to achieve the other relevant aims and anticipated benefits of the DMTP of producing a paperless prescription journey and enabling patient access through the NHS Wales app.

To incentivise community pharmacy system suppliers to deliver the necessary changes, DMTP is working with LSHW to deliver the CPSIF grant fund. Funding will be available on a per supplier basis, rather than a per pharmacy basis. The application process has been designed to ensure we capture sufficient information from applicants to ensure value for public money, but also to ensure that the process is proportionate to the amount of funding available.

3. <u>Scope</u>

Projects must aim to:

- Develop and implement the changes necessary to community pharmacy systems to enable EPS in a Wales-based pharmacy via an assured Patient Medication Record (PMR);
- Optionally develop and implement changes needed to community pharmacy systems that will result in a paperless prescription journey and/or push notification to the NHS Wales app in a Wales-based pharmacy setting.

Only activities associated with these aims are within scope of the fund. These activities will be split into three tiers (see below). Funding will be available during financial year 2023/24 and financial year 2024/25, commencing April 01, 2023, and ceasing March 31, 2025, with all funded activities to conclude by January 31, 2025, and claims to be completed by March 31, 2025.

Tier 1 – Implement EPS: Activities in scope are those required to implement EPS in community pharmacies and dispensing appliance contractors in Wales, with all existing functionality available in England as well as specific all-Wales requirements. These Welsh requirements are documented in *EPS_WELSH_SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS_SRS_v3.0* (see Appendix A below). Tier 1 will be considered complete upon successful processing of a live EPS script in Wales via an assured patient medication record (PMR) system. Suppliers will have to complete this tier before being eligible for payment for tiers 2 and/or 3. This tier will be timebound to encourage suppliers to prioritise EPS deployment.

Tier 2 – Paperless: Activities in scope are supplier-identified developments to their PMR that will minimise the requirements for paper for pharmacies, and resulting in a paperless prescription journey, notwithstanding the right of a patient to request a paper dispensing token if they wish. The paperless journey will also exclude ordering repeat prescriptions. Suppliers who have successfully applied for Tier 1 funding will be eligible (but not required) to receive Tier 2 funding. Tier 2 will be considered complete when a supplier is able to demonstrate a paperless prescription journey following the same use cases as tier 1.

Tier 3 – Push notification: Activities in scope are those which will enable the development of a mechanism from within the PMR that results in a standardised push notification to the NHS Wales App to advise a patient that their medicines are ready to collect, along with the location of the pharmacy and its opening hours. The programme is working with the Digital Services for the Patient and Public (DSPP) to develop the standard required in English and in Welsh. For the purposes of this tier, suppliers will be successful when a conformant message is available on the API behind the NHS Wales App. The requirement specification will be shared with suppliers in a separate document. Suppliers who have successfully applied for Tier 1 funding will be eligible (but not required) to receive Tier 3 funding. Tier 2 activities are not a prerequisite to Tier 3 funding. Tier 3 will be considered complete upon successful receipt of a push notification via the NHS patient app.

Activities not associated with the tiers above or aligning with the standard requirements, or not resulting in the success criteria (see Section 8.2) will not be in scope for funding.

4. Eligibility criteria

Applicants must be:

- UK registered business.
- Eligible to receive grant funding under the UKs current subsidy control obligations for Minimal Financial Assistance, *de minimis* regulations or as a one-off subsidy.
- Able to demonstrate that they have a UK-based bank account in the name of the applicant organisation.
- Not in financial difficulties (able to pass due diligence checks on business status, and able to declare that the business and named applicants are not subject to any material litigation).
- Supplying pharmacies in Wales with an EPS ready patient medication record (PMR) system at the time that success criteria are being assessed and before defrayed payment.
- Applying for in-scope activities, as a minimum including development of an EPS ready PMR for use in Wales (tier 1 / milestone A).
- Requesting no more than £55,781 for tier 1 activities, no more than £27,891 for tier 2 activities, no more than £27,891.50 for tier 3 activities, and no more than £111,562.50 overall.
- Able to confirm that grant funding is needed to ensure the project happens, i.e. the project activity would not progress appropriately without the use of public funds and that the activity represents value for money.
- Claiming eligible net revenue costs only. Capital expenditure and VAT are ineligible.
- Able to evidence expenditure on project activities and that required outcomes have been achieved.
- Able to evidence that any insurance and compliance with legislated requirements are in place.
- Planning to complete all activities and expenditure by January 31, 2025, with projects fully closed and all costs claimed by March 31, 2025.
- Able to agree to and participate in quarterly monitoring for a minimum of 12 months following the closure of the payment phase to ensure that products remain available to the intended users.
- Able to agree to sharing of high-level project details and outcomes in the public domain.

4.1 Eligible revenue costs

The grant is restricted to revenue expenditure that is directly related to the project only. Where items will be used outside the project activity, we may only fund the proportion of the costs of that item that relates directly to project activity. Evidenced revenue costs must fulfil the eligibility criteria detailed below in order to qualify for payment. Please note that this list is not exhaustive.

Eligible costs	Ineligible costs
Revenue costs including staff / consultant time	Capital costs (eg. plant and machinery that will
and consumables	be capitalised in the company accounts, or
	costs not marked as revenue costs during
	accounting)
Net costs	VAT
Revenue costs of software necessary for	Software costs that are capital expenditure in
development of PMR product and/or	accounting and/or not directly linked to
	activities outlined in the scope*
Costs incurred after the date of the award	Costs incurred before date of award letter and
letter and before the end date of the project.	after the end date of the project (last date for
	expenditure will be January 31, 2025).
	Transactions where there is insufficient
•	evidence of an auditable payment trail
	including credit card expenditure and cash
	transactions.
Costs related specifically to the work required	Costs which are not directly related to the
for the project.	work required for the project including
	contingencies and business as usual costs.
Development costs.	Any liability arising out of negligence on the
	part of the Recipient, their representatives,
	contractors or other agents.
Installation and commissioning costs.	Training costs.
	Delivery/shipping costs.

*If you are uncertain whether a cost should be capitalised on your company accounts, we recommend that you take independent advice.

5. Application process

UK-registered businesses who are already supplying community pharmacy systems in Wales or who have the potential to supply these systems, can apply for a CPSIF grant of up to £111,562.50 via a non-competitive funding scheme that will open in April 2023 and close in October 2024. We anticipate including up to 7 closing dates for applications during this time, provisionally scheduled for:

- Closing April 2023, assessment panel decision anticipated in May 2023
- July 2023, assessment panel decision anticipated in August 2023
- October 2023, assessment panel decision anticipated in November 2023
- December 2023, assessment panel decision anticipated in January 2024
- Closing April 2024, assessment panel decision anticipated in May 2024
- July 2024, assessment panel decision anticipated in August 2024
- October 2024, assessment panel decision anticipated in November 2024

Funding will be provided to eligible organisations, where their application meets the scope and eligibility criteria of the programme, as a defrayed payment of up to 100% eligible project costs at the conclusion of each tier (the maximum amount of funding available at each tier

and the activity required is detailed in the tiered payments table). Applications will be restricted to allow one award only per tier, per registered business.

Applicants should download the application form available at the LSHW website, before the closing date of the round to which they intend to apply. **Closing dates will be published on the LSHW webpages.**

Applicants must provide their plans for enabling an EPS (tier 1, up to £55,781 available per applicant), and their plans for, or their intention to apply subsequently for optional tiers for enabling a paperless prescription journey (tier 2, up to £27,891 available per applicant) and/or push notification (tier 3, up to £27,891 available per applicant). Application forms will collect information including project plans, relevant experience, anticipated costs and subsidy status of the applicant organisation. Applications which meet the scope and eligibility criteria (determined by panel assessment) will be awarded funding. If applicants are not able to submit plans for tier 2 and/or 3 in the first application, they will be able to make a subsequent application for these tiers, provided that tier 1 has been applied for. All applicants must apply for tier 1 as a minimum, with full applications for tier(s) 2 and/or 3 accepted and assessed following a grant offer letter for tier 1. Applications for tiers 2 and 3 will follow a similar process to that for tier 1. Should your project plans change after an award letter is issued, you must contact <u>fundingsupport@lshubwales.com</u> to discuss before committing to any expenditure or activity that is not outlined in your application form.

We will review applications for compliance and may need to contact you to request further details should any information be omitted from your application form. This may delay the approval of your application. We will conduct due diligence checks on the applicant business including a soft credit check and your last publicly available accounts. Should the applicant business appear to be in financial difficulty, it will not be possible to provide funding. We may also check any daily rates for staff to ensure that they represent value for money.

5.1 Completing the application form

The application form is available for download from the LSHW website. All sections must be completed, before sending the form with relevant attachments to fundingsupport@lshubwales.com in advance of the closing date of the funding round to which you wish to apply. Blue shaded sections are the questions you must answer. Grey shaded sections contain information to help you. Please ensure all attachments are in pdf format. Once you have digitally signed the application form, you will not be able to make any further edits. Please ensure that you complete all fields in the form before adding your signature.

Section 1 Applicant details: Please fully complete with all your details. The person completing the application form on behalf of the company must have the authority to sign a legally binding agreement on the behalf of the company. Remember to **attach evidence** of your company bank account. You can redact any information that you don't want us to see.

Section 2 Project details: We need to ensure that your plans fit the timelines for the CPSIF fund and that you are applying for in-scope activities. Please provide a brief summary of your

plans against each funding tier you intend to apply for. If you are not applying for all funding tiers now, you can apply for tiers 2 and 3 later, provided you have successfully applied for tier 1.

Section 3 Scope: We need to ensure that your plans fit fully with the scope and success criteria of the CPSIF. We want to know what the results (outputs) of the project will be. It is important that you tell us how your plans will result in the success criteria outlined in Section 8.2.

Section 4 Approach: We need to understand the technical approach you will take to deliver a successful project (in reference to the success criteria outlined in Section 8.2). Please include any details of anticipated challenges or blockers.

Section 5 Project team: We need to understand who will be involved in the project, and ensure they have the necessary skills and experience to achieve the project outcomes.

Section 6 Route to market and impact: We need to understand your current position in the market to ensure you meet our eligibility requirements. We also need to understand your target customers for the outcomes of the project, and their motivation for using your final product. Funding delivered through this programme is public money. Therefore, we need to understand how the proposed activity will provide added value, for example, it might affect your business (for example, will it increase productivity and growth, make you more competitive, allow you to recruit or retain staff), result in cost savings for you and/or your customers, result in increased satisfaction from your customers (or patients), as well as the advantages that receiving public funding will confer on the proposed project (will there be an increased scope of work, will outputs be delivered more quickly, will the project only be viable with public support). Please also outline what will happen to the planned activities should your application for funding be declined.

Section 7 Project management: Please provide details of your project management approach. Note that milestones for defrayed payment will be at the point at which you are able to demonstrate expenditure for progress against a particular tier, as well as the success criteria for that tier. **Please attach a roadmap** detailing the plans for progressing the project. You should take into account the assurance process and ensure there is sufficient time for DHCW to assure the products of the project.

Section 8 Risks: Please detail the main risks to the project. You may wish to refer specifically to EPS_WELSH_SPECIFIC_REQUIREMENTS_SRS v3.0 (Appendix A) and Dispensing Systems Compliance Specification v5.4 (NPFIT-ETP-EDB-0024) (Appendix B). Don't forget to include any permits or insurances in this section, and any mitigation measures.

Section 9 Costs: Please provide an estimate of all costs associated with the project activities by fully completing the table. Only demonstrable revenue costs directly associated with inscope activities are eligible for grant funding. **Quotes must be attached** for all items over £1,000 in value, with two quotes for each item over £1,999 in value, with three quotes for each item over £5,000 in value. If you have not selected the cheapest quote, you must provide a justification. Quotes are not required for internal staff costs, but these must represent a reasonable daily rate. Any costs that will be capitalised in your company accounts are

ineligible. Please see Section 4.1 for examples of eligible and ineligible costs. Please ensure that you are prepared to provide evidence of expenditure for all costs you wish to claim for, see Section 8.1. **Expenditure must have occurred after the date of offer letter to be eligible for funding.**

Section 10 Subsidy status: You must complete the subsidy declaration so that we understand the best route to award funding should your application be successful. We can award funding under the Minimal Financial Assistance, *de minimis* or one-off subsidy routes. It is your responsibility to ensure you are eligible to receive funding under the route which will be specified in your offer letter, should your application be successful. If you are uncertain about your company's subsidy status, we recommend that you seek independent legal advice.

Section 11 Declaration: This section of the application form must be signed off by a suitably authorised person from the applicant company. You may include two signatories if appropriate to your company structure. If your application is successful, we will need to match the signature on the application form to other documents later on, so please either insert an electronic copy of your wet signature or print out and sign the declaration before sending us a scanned copy.

6. Assessment process

Complete applications will be assessed by a panel for fit with scope and eligibility criteria. Applications which meet the eligibility criteria and scope will be selected for funding and awards made via official letter. Assessment panel decisions will be considered final, with the LSHW CEO reserving the right to refuse to fund applications where this may result in reputational damage to LSHW. Assessment panels will be convened as close as possible to funding round closing dates, and decisions delivered to applicants within 5 working days of panel assessment. In cases where the panel deems there is not sufficient information provided in your application, or where initial checks indicate that more information is needed, we may approach you to provide this information.

6.1 Assessment criteria

Panel members will evaluate each section of the application form submitted by applicants against the following areas (a negative assessment will mean that the application cannot be progressed):

- Fulfils all eligibility criteria;
- Able to demonstrate ability to undertake software development necessary previous development (e.g. EPS for England, existing/under development PMR system), staff have necessary skills (e.g. System architects, Software developers, Product owners);
- Clear plan for development and implementation of tiers applied for with consideration given to timeline of funding (FY 23/24 and FY 24/25);
- Able to produce roadmap which is realistic within the scope of the Innovation Fund and has clear milestones;
- Project team in place and appropriate;

- Assurance by NHS England: PMR system already assured by NHS England. If not yet assured, able to verify that assurance within the Fund's timelines is reasonable (e.g. already in discussions, with concrete timelines in place with NHS England);
- Cost estimates are eligible, appropriate, reasonable, and related to the project scope directly.

The assessment matrix is as follows:

Section 1

Applicant is a UK registered business and a single entity, and does not appear to be in financial difficulty according to the application form, Credit Safe report and Companies House data. Applicant has a suitable UK-based bank account.

Project activity will not affect trade across the Northern Ireland/European Union border. Section 2

Project activity is planned within the allowed time period and summary indicates a fit with scope and eligibility criteria.

Section 3

Scope of the project fits with scope outlined in the guidance. The project will deliver against all success criteria required.

Section 4

Approach outlined gives the assessor confidence that the project will be delivered to scope.

Section 5

Project teams are appropriate and necessary to deliver the outcomes.

Section 6

Applicant currently supplies or has the potential to supply pharmacies in Wales with digital pharmacy products e.g. Pharmacy system is assured in England, OR in the process of being assured by NHS England, OR have a clear timeline to achieve assurance to go live within the timeline of the CPSIF.

The project will result in added value for the taxpayer.

Assessor is confident that the project requires public funding and will not proceed appropriately without a grant.

Section 7

The approach to project management gives the assessor assurance that the project will be completed to scope and within time constraints.

Milestones occur at an appropriate time and cost.

Section 8

The approach to risk management is appropriate and necessary considerations and mitigations have been given.

Section 9

Costs submitted are eligible revenue, appear to relate directly to project activities, are for essential activities, reasonable, and assessor is confident that evidence of these can be supplied at point of claim.

Costs represent value for money.

Section 10

Applicant has not exceeded their subsidy threshold (£315,000 over the current and previous 2 years) and the award will not result in the applicant exceeding their subsidy threshold.

Section 11

Applicant has completed the declaration appropriately.

7. Award process

Assessment panel decisions will be communicated to applicants by official letter. <u>You must</u> not begin any work on the project until we have confirmed in writing that you are able to <u>do so</u>. Should you begin work before a signed grant agreement (note that this is not the same as an offer letter) is in place between LSHW and the beneficiary organisation, you do so at your own risk. Award letters will detail the subsidy regime under which any award is made and any pre-contractual requisites including completion of a new supplier form which will enable us to verify your UK-based bank account in the name of the applicant company into which grant funds can be paid so that you are able to receive funding.

Payment of grant funding to successful applicants will not be possible before a grant agreement (contract) covering the work is in place. A grant agreement will be provided to successful applicants which includes milestones against which they will claim defrayed payments, and the conditions under which these payments can be made. The milestones will be based on the information provided in the Section 9 of the application form.

7.1 Grant agreements (contracts)

Successful applicants will sign a robust grant agreement which sets out the terms and conditions of the grant. **Under no circumstances should the applicant proceed with activity to be funded by the grant before the funding provider confirms to the applicant in writing that work can begin.** We understand that circumstances change, so should you wish to make a change to your contract, you should contact fundingsupport@lshubwales.com to discuss. Variations to funding agreements may be possible in some circumstances, provided that the outputs of your project still align with the success criteria in Section 8.2. **Contract sign off will be a prerequisite to any agreed payments.**

8. <u>Claims for grant payments</u>

Grant payments will be supplied to beneficiaries for defrayed expenditure in a schedule outlined in the grant agreement. **Expenditure must have occurred after the date of offer letter to be eligible for funding.** Beneficiaries will be required to submit evidence of actual costs and a progress report, together with an application for payment for due diligence checks to fundingsupport@lshubwales.com before payments are made. Applicants will be required to provide technical evidence that the technical success criteria required at each tier have been achieved. This may include hosting a visit from a project monitor at either the applicant business or a pharmacy location in order to demonstrate outputs.

8.1 Suitable evidence of expenditure

Evidence of expenditure may include original receipts or invoice and evidence of payment leaving a registered business account in the name of the recipient organisation, direct staff costs must be supported by PAYE records and time sheets. Credit card and cash expenditure is ineligible. All expenditure must be evidenced by a suitable audit trail.

8.2 Technical success criteria for payment of funding tiers

Tier 1: Implement EPS

TIER	CRITERIA No	SUCCESS CRITERIA	EVIDENCE
1	1.1	Successful processing of a live EPS script via an assured* PMR system in a pharmacy in Wales.	EPS deployed in minimum one community pharmacy. EPS programme team to confirm via NWSSP that a prescription has
			been successfully dispensed, using the appropriate processes (including smart cards) and reimbursed using EPS.
1	1.2	Patient nomination.	Patient/ user able to search for, and nominate, a community pharmacy using suppliers'/developers' EPS ready PMR system.
1	1.3	Deployed in live environment for use in minimum of one community pharmacy and available for elective rollout to dispensing contractors.	Deployed in live environment confirmed by EPS programme team.
1	1.4	Compliance with EPS_WELSH_SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS_SRS (v3.0).	Witness testing by EPS programme team → Completion of Wales EPS assurance process.
1	1.5	Compliance with Dispensing Systems Compliance Specification v5.4 (NPFIT-ETP-EDB-0024)	Witness testing by EPS programme team → Completion of England EPS assurance process.

Tier 2: Paperless processes

TIER	CRITERIA No	SUCCESS CRITERIA	EVIDENCE
2		Supplier is able to demonstrate a paperless prescription journey via an assured* PMR system in a pharmacy in Wales following the same use cases as per tier 1 (repeat prescription ordering out of scope and therefore not required to be paperless).	Witness testing by EPS programme team.
2			Deployed in live environment confirmed by EPS programme team.

2	2.3	Ability to display prescription information on a screen and/or device such that a clinical check can be performed and recorded by a pharmacist within the PMR system	Witness testing by EPS programme team.
		without the need to print on paper.	
2	2.4	Ability for user to pause and resume paperless end to end dispensing process at any stage (including the ability to switch users) without losing previous work.	Witness testing by EPS programme team.
2	2.5		Witness testing by EPS programme team.
2	2.6	Ability to allow a user to complete an accuracy check without a printed token.	Witness testing by EPS programme team.

Tier 3: Push notification to the NHS Wales App

TIER	CRITERIA	SUCCESS CRITERIA	EVIDENCE
	No		
3			DSPP/Kainos, that message arrived to API from an assured* PMR system in a pharmacy in Wales.
3	3.2	Deployed for use in minimum of one	Witness testing by EPS programme team.

*Please refer to Appendix C.

**Please note that the supporting requirement specification for this tier will be provided separately to this document and applicants will be notified of any changes.

9. Closure

Following the successful completion and payment of all tiers, beneficiaries will be sent a project closure letter. This will include the final details of any subsidy awarded to fund the project and information with regard to ongoing monitoring. Closure letters will be signed off by the LSHW CEO.

10. Monitoring

Following the completion of the payment phase, projects will be monitored on a quarterly basis for one year, for reporting on their contracted deliverables. The primary purpose of monitoring is to ensure that the systems developed through funding remain available to the users over a period of at least 12 months and are not withdrawn from the market. You will also be monitored to ensure that other anticipated benefits are realised. The EPS programme team will be responsible for monitoring your project.

Appendix A EPS_WELSH_SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS_SRS_v3.0

View the Electronic Prescription Service Welsh Specific Requirements document.

Please also email us if you wish to have a copy in Welsh.

Appendix B Dispensing Systems Compliance Specification v5.4 (NPFIT-ETP-EDB-0024)

View the Electronic Prescription Service Dispensing Systems Compliance Specification document.

Please also email us if you wish to have a copy in Welsh.

Appendix C EPS_APPROACH TO ASSURANCE_v1.0 - Supplier Copy

View the Primary Care Electronic Prescription Service Assurance Approach document.

Please also email us if you wish to have a copy in Welsh.