

NMS and Targeted MURs: what is the difference?

There have been **two** significant changes to the pharmacy contract in England; the introduction of targeted Medicines Use Reviews (MURs) and the New Medicine Service. The table below summarises the differences between the two services.

Criteria	New Medicines Service (NMS)	Targeted MURs
When is a patient eligible?	When a new medicine for a long term condition (see below) is first prescribed.	After having their prescription items dispensed at the pharmacy continually for the previous three months ; or after six months following an NMS (unless the MUR is an Intervention MUR).
Eligible patients	Patients prescribed a new medicine for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • asthma/COPD • type 2 diabetes • hypertension, or • antiplatelet/anticoagulant therapy. 	Patients: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with respiratory disease (taking a medicine from the asthma/COPD list for NMS) • recently discharged from hospital • taking high risk medicines (NSAIDs, anticoagulants, antiplatelets and diuretics).
Can the service be provided to a patient taking just one medicine?	Yes.	Yes – but only if the patient is taking a high risk medicine from the nationally agreed target group. Otherwise, you can only conduct an MUR for patients on multiple medicines.
Consent required	Yes – written consent is required before the NMS can begin.	Yes – from October 1 st 2011 all patients must provide written consent before the MUR can take place.
Maximum number that can be completed	No maximum number – however, the maximum payment is based on achieving 80% of expected NMS opportunities.	Maximum number of MUR per year is 400; 50% of these (from 1 st October 2011) should be Targeted MURs from the three eligible groups detailed above.
Funding	Initial payment of £750. Ongoing monthly banded payment based on % of NMS against total prescription volume – at least 20% of the expected number of NMS must be completed to receive the first level of payment.	Fee per individual MUR = £28.
Where can the service take place?	In the pharmacy – either in the consultation area or over the telephone.	Generally, in the consultation area in the pharmacy. Subject to PCT consent, MURs can also take place in non-pharmacy premises (e.g. care home, surgery) or via the telephone.
Training	Pharmacists must complete the NMS 'self-assessment' form declaring they have the necessary skills and knowledge before starting the NMS. Pharmacists must also be accredited to provide MURs.	Pharmacists must be accredited – i.e. having done a competency assessment before conducting MURs; a copy of the MUR certificate must be sent to the PCT.

More detailed information on the NMS and Targeted MURs can be found on the NPA website: www.npa.co.uk.