

3 December 2012

Dear Colleagues,

The Calculating Quality Reporting Service (CQRS) is replacing the Quality Management and Analysis System (QMAS), the system currently used to calculate payments to GPs under the Quality & Outcomes Framework (QOF). While QMAS will be used to calculate QOF achievement for 2012/13, CQRS will be the new system for calculating and reporting on QOF for GP practices across England for the 2013/14 financial year.

QMAS users should have received an email about this change on 22/11/12, along with instructions on what practices need to do. These instructions are also available later in this letter. The CQRS team have requested the BMA's help in raising awareness of these activities and encouraging practices to register for regular email updates via the link provided below.

In addition to supporting QOF, the Department of Health has commissioned CQRS to calculate payments to GPs for their performance against other quality outcome-related schemes. CQRS will provide the capability to support NHS quality related payments such as Directed Enhanced Services (DES), Childhood Immunisation and Vaccinations and locally commissioned services.

What do practices need to do in preparation for QMAS closing down, and CQRS going live on for the 2013/14 financial year?

1. QMAS end-of-year activities for the QOF for 2012/13

On 2 July 2013 at 8pm all submissions to QMAS from GP system suppliers and any manual updates or adjustments will be suspended. GP practices that have not declared achievement for QOF for 2012/13, and had their NHS Commissioning Board Local Area Team approve financial payment on QMAS in line with local transition arrangements by 2 July 2013, will have to do so manually (i.e. 'off system') from this date.

It is therefore important that you make sure all your achievement is up to date before 1 April 2013 so the declaration and approval process can be completed. Further information on this will be made available from the CQRS team closer to the financial year end.

2. CQRS training

GP practices will need to use CQRS for QOF and other payments for the 2013/2014 financial year. One place will be available per GP practice for CQRS training and it is essential that an individual from each GP practice participates in the training.

The appropriate individual (in many cases this will be the practice manager) needs to tell the CQRS team that they will be a user of the new service, and therefore require training, by signing up for updates at:

<http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/systemsandservices/cqrs/regforupdates>

Training for CQRS will be delivered in two separate phases. The first phase will introduce what CQRS is and what it does, while the second phase will ensure users are fully equipped in how to use the system. Registration for this training is scheduled to open in early January 2013 and the first phase is set to begin in February 2013. All the training materials will be made available as soon as the training begins to ensure that those who can't participate can still become familiar with the system.

You can find out more about CQRS and why it is replacing QMAS here:

<http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/systemsandservices/cqrs>

Thanks

Yours faithfully