



Health & Social Care
Information Centre

Calculating Quality Reporting Service - (CQRS)

Important information for GP practices - Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) 2013/14

As promised in December 2013, what follows is an update on the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) for the financial year 2013/14. A step-by-step detailed guide on what practices need to do for QOF will be issued in March.

This update also includes important information on participating in QOF 2013/14 in the General Practice Extraction Service (GPES) and Calculating Quality and Reporting Service (CQRS), and enhanced services on CQRS.

It also explains the contingences that we have in place to ensure aspiration payments are protected for GP practices.

What GP Practices need to know about data extraction for QOF 2013/14

GPES: NO ACTION REQUIRED

- The GPES Information Governance principles state that practices will always be asked to opt in to each extraction that is proposed to run on their data. However for this year only, HSCIC will be extracting QOF data automatically unless a practice chooses to opt out. This mirrors the method that was previously used by QMAS, and will be implemented for a number of reasons. A follow-up GPES message will be distributed shortly that explains the rationale for this approach in more detail.
- General practices that wish to participate in QOF need take no action in GPES; the data will be taken automatically. A notification message will appear in the user interface of general practice clinical software solutions that offers the 'opt out' option. A practice can safely ignore this message and data will be extracted. If a practice does not wish to participate, the notification message provides a facility to 'opt out'. By choosing "Stop!", a practice will prevent their data from being extracted by GPES. Any practice choosing to opt out must contact their NHS England Area Team representative.
- We believe that this is the simplest and most efficient solution to facilitate the end of year QOF payment process for general practices.
- It is important to be clear that the above arrangement will apply to QOF 2013/14 only. QOF is an extraction of anonymised, aggregate data. There is no intention to run any other GPES data extraction via this method.

What practices need to do on CQRS for QOF 2013/14

- HSCIC is working toward full rollout of GPES to all GP practices by the end of March 2014. This will ensure that QOF data is available in CQRS for calculation of QOF 2013/14.
- As part of your standard QOF preparation GP practices should use local searches provided by GP system suppliers to check their performance and take any necessary action to improve it before submitting their QOF data.
- Participation in QOF on CQRS will begin in conjunction with the GPES full roll out. Practices will receive further guidance on what they need to do and when from the HSCIC in March.

- In line with previous years, GP practices will need to complete manual entry for a small number of indicators. This will need to be completed by year end. This information will be included in the guidance being sent out in March.
- It is important that the QOF information shown within CQRS is correct before it is submitted to your Area Team.
- Once the year end extraction is available to view in CQRS, GP practices will need to validate the data before declaring achievement in CQRS.
- Once the payment has been approved by your Area Team the payment will then be sent for processing to the payment agencies. Please check with your Area Team for local arrangements on payments. Contact details for your Area Team can be found here:
<http://nhscqrs.createsend1.com/t/r-l-pddthyk-l-j/>

Protecting GP Practice Payments

GP practice payments for QOF 2013/14 achievement and QOF 2014/15 monthly aspiration are expected to be paid in the usual way.

Protecting achievement and aspiration payments is our main priority in the event that QOF data is not available via GPES for all GP practices by the end of March.

With this in mind, NHS England and HSCIC have developed a contingency option that will ensure an estimated QOF 2014/15 aspiration payment will be made to GP practices through CQRS in April as normal.

For QOF 2013/14 achievement, a number of options are being discussed to ensure the payments are made within expected business timelines. More information will be available shortly on how this will be achieved.

Manual entry for Enhanced Services

Manual entry for enhanced services supported by CQRS will continue for the time being to provide more time for GPES to successfully deliver the QOF 2013/14 extractions.

In the event of GPES data not being available, manual entry will continue until further notice.

We will still continue to provide detailed information guides for GP practices on how to enter this data.

Further information

We have a number of FAQs about this information [here](#).

A further update will be sent in March providing step by step guides for GP practices. If you require any more information please contact the HSCIC service desk via email: enquiries@hscic.gov.uk