

GMS IT – QMAS Implementation Bulletin

This bulletin brings you an update of current QMAS activity and outlines the changes to QMAS that will be effective from 27th October 2008. It is primarily intended for all GMS and PMS Practices participating in the Quality and Outcome Framework (QOF) and for QMAS users at PCTs, SHAs and the NHS Bank.

For all QMAS Bulletins and Guidance notes visit:

www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/delivery/programmes/qmas/

For QMAS training: <http://www.qmastraining.nhs.uk/qmastrain/index.htm>

QOF 2008/9 Reporting

Since 1st April 2008 QMAS has not been displaying QOF achievement reports for financial year 2008/9. Before your practice can see the achievement reports, two things need to happen:

1. QMAS upgrade

Following a short pilot period, the upgrade is planned to be completed by 27th October 2008.

2. Your clinical system needs to be updated by your clinical system supplier

Once your GP clinical supplier has been through the GMS Certification process, your clinical system will be upgraded. This is expected to be within the next two months. Your clinical system supplier will advise you when you will be upgraded. In the meantime, you can check on the progress of your GP clinical system supplier through the GMS Certification Process by visiting: www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/systemsandservices/gpsupport/qmas/suppliercertification

When your clinical system has been upgraded it will automatically submit an interim report to QMAS. This effectively tells QMAS that your clinical system is ready to begin submitting achievement reports for 2008/9.

Once this has happened, your clinical system will automatically start to submit monthly reports, one for each month right up until the point your clinical system was upgraded. For example, if your clinical system is upgraded on October 27th 2008, it will submit a monthly report for April, May, June, July, August, September and October. This “catch up” will bring QMAS up to date as far as your practice’s achievement reporting is concerned.



For Revisions to the GMS Contract 2008-09:

<http://www.nhsemployers.org/pay-conditions/primary-890.cfm>

For the latest QOF Business Rules: <http://www.pcc.nhs.uk/145.php>

For GP suppliers GMS Certification status:

<http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/systemsandservices/gpsupport/qmas/supplercertification>

QOF Assessor Review Visits

QOF Assessor Review visits may have been scheduled to commence before both the QMAS upgrade and your clinical system upgrade have been completed. If this is the case, you may want to consider speaking with your PCT to reschedule the visit until after your clinical supplier has upgraded your practice system.

Prevalence values for October 2008 – a note of caution

In October there will be a lower than usual number of practice submissions. This will affect the October 2008 month end report where the national values on QMAS (e.g. national prevalence) may show noticeable variations from the QMAS reports generated for the end of the QOF Financial Year 2007/08.

These values will be corrected automatically on QMAS as the number of month end submissions increase due to continued roll-out by GP Clinical System Suppliers. Some PCTs are known to use QMAS data for purposes other than QOF achievement reporting. If this is the case, it is your responsibility to consider whether the temporary variation in prevalence values may impact your analyses, and to treat the results with appropriate caution. The NHS CFH team is unable to give advice on general usage or to advise whether specific examples of such use may be affected.

If a practice closes during October, PCTs may need to take account of the temporary variation in prevalence values when calculating final settlements. It may be advisable to wait for 'normal' prevalence values to be restored before finalising the calculations, or to be prepared to make a later adjustment if this is not possible.

Change to National Prevalence Day

As stated in the Statement of Financial Entitlement (SFE), National Prevalence Day is being re-aligned to the Year End. QMAS is being upgraded to use the Register values supplied in the Year End submission as the basis for calculating prevalence rather than the submissions that were made for 14th February. This change to the way QMAS works ensures there is no additional activity on QMAS by practices for National Prevalence Day.



PE7 & PE8 Indicators

The changes to the QOF Indicator set included the addition of two indicators (PE7 and PE8) to support achievement against the national GP Patient Survey on patient experience of access to a GP within 2 days and the ability to book an appointment ahead. NHS CFH has been advised that the survey results will not be available prior to 31st March 2009. QMAS has been updated to support these two indicators, but practices will not be able to enter values for this year 2008/09. Instead, the PCT will enter the data for PE7 and PE8 as part of the PCT Adjustment function after the 2008/09 Year End report has been generated.

Frequently Asked Questions

This section outlines the most common questions likely to be asked regarding upgrades to QMAS.

When will the upgraded QMAS software be implemented?

The upgraded QMAS software is expected to be available by 27th October 2008.

What will I be able to see before then?

Existing QMAS functionality is available i.e. all reports for 2007/2008 and earlier are available to view.

When will my GP clinical system supplier have their new data extraction files ready?

All GP clinical system suppliers are currently developing their software and their new QOF data extract will have to go through the NHS CFH testing process i.e. GMS Certification. Once this has been passed they will begin rolling out to their users. The GP clinical system suppliers will keep you informed of their plans.

For GP suppliers GMS accreditation status:

<http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/systemsandservices/gpsupport/qmas/suppliercertification>

Will the QMAS training website be upgraded?

Yes, please visit the link below to find the most up to date information on training.

For QMAS training: <http://www.qmastraining.nhs.uk/qmastrain/index.htm>

Will my QMAS user id and password still work?

If you have accessed QMAS in the last 90 days then your status will still be active. If over 90 days then you will need to contact your PCT QMAS User Administrator to reactivate you as a QMAS user.



How do I find out who my PCT QMAS User Administrator is?

Contact your PCT QOF Lead and ask for the contact details for the PCT QMAS User Administrator.

Who do I contact if I have technical problems with QMAS?

For technical support contact the QMAS support team: 0845 6016907

Who do I contact for clarification about the QOF Business Rules?

Your local Primary Care Contracting Advisor will be able to advise you via your PCT QOF Lead.

Where do I find the new GMS Contract for 2008/09?

Revisions to the GMS Contract 2008/09 are published on the NHS Employers website.

For Revisions to the GMS Contract 2008-09:

<http://www.nhsemployers.org/pay-conditions/primary-890.cfm>

Where do I find the new QOF Business Rules for 2008/09?

The QOF Business Rules are published on the Primary Care Contracting website.

For the latest QOF Business Rules: <http://www.pcc.nhs.uk/145.php>

Are the QMAS Bulletins published on the web?

Yes. The latest QMAS Bulletins are easily found on the QMAS webpage. All QMAS Bulletins are archived and can be accessed from the QMAS webpage.

For all QMAS Bulletins and Guidance notes visit:

<http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/systemsandservices/gpsupport/qmas>

