

QMAS – End of Year Communications February 2009

This bulletin gives QMAS users and Administrators advice and guidance on the changes to QMAS for year end 08/09

The Statement of Financial Entitlement (SFE) for 2008 can be found by following the link below:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_089663

Deadline for end of year payments

PCTs are reminded that they now have until the end of June following the year end before achievement payments fall due. This was agreed as part of the GMS contract negotiations for 2008/09 in order to give PCTs longer to carry out pre-payment verification. Aspiration payments were raised to 70% to compensate practices for the effect on cash-flow,

PE7 & PE8

It has been brought to our attention recently that the thresholds for these indicators are incorrect. NHS CFH is working with the system supplier to ensure that the correct thresholds are in place in time for PCTs to enter the scores on or after 11 May. For information, the correct thresholds are:

PE7	70-90%
PE8	60-90%

GP's are reminded that DH has informed PCTs not to approve end of year payments until the PE7 & 8 results have been entered into QMAS. This is expected to be May. Any GP's with questions should contact their QMAS Administrator at the PCT

Guidance can be found by following the link below:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_092085#

Records 23 (Ex Smoker)

We are aware that there is an issue with records 23. This issue relates to non-smokers aged 25 and under and ex-smokers being required to have their status recorded within 15 months in the current business rules. The indicator requires smoking status to be recorded within the last 27 months. The business rules for 2009/10 will be amended to ensure that smoking status under this indicator is only required to be recorded within the last 27 months.



The QMAS team are in discussions with GP System suppliers to provide a local query that will include non smokers aged 25 and under and ex-smokers in the achievement figures provided that their smoking status was recorded within the last 27 months. PCTs will be able to use the query to adjust the year end payments for 2008/09, where required, as part of the year end review. Alternatively PCTs can follow the QOF guidance for Records 23 for checking records manually.

PC03

We are aware that there is an issue when checking the palliative care register (PC03). Currently the business rule states that the register contains patients for 3 years rather than the previous 12 months. This discrepancy will not affect payments as there is no prevalence adjustment for the palliative care register, but it will be corrected in the next set of business rules.

National Prevalence Day (NPD)

GP's are reminded that NPD has moved from 14 Feb to 31 March in line with the year end submission. This means that GP's no longer need to make a separate submission for NPD. Manual and automatic Practice submissions should continue to be made at year end.

User Passwords

Users are reminded that accounts should be accessed before year end to ensure passwords are correct and accounts live. If users cannot access QMAS then please contact your PCT QOF Administrator to request a password reset. We would also like to remind users that you must use your own account when accessing QMAS. Password will not be re-set for anyone but the account holder.

Frequently Asked Questions

This section outlines the most common questions asked of the end of year process.

Who in the practice can sign the on-line achievement declaration?

It is entirely a decision for each practice to make. In most practices it will be either the senior partner or the practice/business manager.



In what way can a PCT adjust my achievement report?

A PCT can adjust the following:

- Numerator
- Denominator
- Boolean value (Yes/No)
- Points (PMS Points Deduction only)
- Practice list size (only for those list sizes NOT provided by Exeter)
- Disease register size
- Additional service target populations

Once the PCT has completed the adjustment, the end-of-year achievement is recalculated. Holistic Care Achievement will also be recalculated based upon the PCT adjustment.

We are a manual practice. What do we do for National Prevalence Day – 31 March 2009?

If you do not have an automatic feed into QMAS this data will no longer have to be entered manually via QMAS web forms and the web forms will no longer be available. Practices must make their normal year end submission and this will be used to calculate their National Prevalence figures. If a manual practice has no access to a personal computer with NHS net access they will need to ask their PCT to enter the data for them.

Is there any training available on the end of year process?

Yes. Training materials, including tutorials and user manuals, are available for practices and PCTs at the QMAS training website: www.qmastraining.nhs.uk
There are a number of other QMAS-related FAQs available on the same website at: <http://www.qmastraining.nhs.uk/qmastrain/faq.htm>

