

GMS IT – QMAS Getting ready for the end of year

Guidance for PCTs and practices

This bulletin provides important guidance with regard to practice list sizes and the National Prevalence Day. It is intended for all QMAS users at the NHS Bank, SHAs, PCTs and all GMS and PMS practices participating in the quality and outcome framework (QOF).

Practice List Size

From April 2005, practices receive QOF achievement payments based on practice list size, achievement data and aspiration data held on QMAS. Correct clinical, organisational achievement and aspiration data for a practice needs to be on QMAS before the end of the QOF period i.e. 31 March 2008.

The practice list size used by QMAS is provided from the Exeter system which is managed by PCT Payment Agencies. The Exeter system will take a practice list size count on 1 January 2008. This practice list size will be used to calculate both Global Sum and QOF achievement payments. Therefore, the practice list size needs to be correct as at the end of Quarter 3 2007, i.e. 31 December 2007.

Practices should ensure that their list sizes are correct and up-to-date by 31 December 2008.

Those practices that do not have Registration links need to allow time for the necessary documentation to be manually updated during December by their local Health Authorities.

National Prevalence Day – 14 February 2008

For those practices that automatically send QMAS data each month, a snapshot of all QOF disease registers will be aligned to 14 February 2008 and used to calculate the national disease prevalence.

If you do not have an automatic feed into QMAS these data will have to be entered manually via QMAS web-forms. These forms will be accessible in QMAS from 14 February 2008 to 14 March 2008. After this time, practices will not be able to enter their QOF disease register information and therefore this information will not be included in the National Prevalence Day calculations.

For the QMAS Training website visit: www.qmastraining.nhs.uk



What practices need to do

1. During December practices need to ensure that their list size is correct and make sure their registration links are up-to-date. This must be complete by 31 December 2007. If a practice is uncertain they should contact their PCT who can then investigate further with their PCT Payment Agency.
2. Practices need to ensure that their QOF disease registers are validated and complete.

To find out how to check your practice list size, visit the QMAS Training website: www.qmastraining.nhs.uk

December Regular Reports

Please note that practice clinical systems will submit December regular reports on Tuesday 1st January 2008. Like last year, we do not anticipate a problem with this but practices are advised to consider any impact of switching off their clinical systems over the New Year period. For example, if a practice's GP clinical system is not switched on throughout 1st January it will not send a regular submission for December to QMAS in time to be included in month end reports.

Accessing QMAS

In preparation for the final quarter of the current QOF Financial Year, it might be prudent for all organisations that use QMAS to ensure that all appropriate staff have their own User Account, and are able to log into it successfully. Users of QMAS are reminded that User Accounts may become 'locked' or require 'resetting' following periods of inactivity by that User.

Practice and PCT Users are reminded that the QOF Lead/Support team at their PCT can unlock accounts and reset passwords; and that the QOF Lead/Support team should be the first point of contact with User Account Issues. If the PCT is unable to resolve the issue, then the issue should be raised with the QMAS helpdesk.

SHA and NHS Bank Users should contact the QMAS helpdesk for any User Account issues.

For any communication regarding User Account issues, it is helpful if the **User Id** and **Organisation Code** (e.g. Practice NACS Code for a Practice User) are provided in that communication.



FAQs

There are a number of FAQs (on a variety of QMAS related topics) which are available on the QMAS training website:

<http://nww.qmastraining.nhs.uk/qmastrain/faq.htm>

