

GMS IT – QMAS Update Bulletin

This bulletin brings you an update of current QMAS activity and outlines new QMAS functionality that will be at your desktops in December. 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).

The purpose of QMAS

This new single national Quality Management and Analysis System (QMAS) will accurately calculate points, pounds, prevalence and weighted list size in accordance with the Statement of Financial Entitlements and it will be linked to the NHAIS 'Exeter' Payment System. It will provide PCTs and practices with access to the same information about QOF quality achievement against aspiration, estimated relative prevalence and current achievement payment whenever they wish.

For all QMAS Bulletins and Guidance notes visit: www.npfit.nhs.uk/programmes/qmas

QMAS Update

QMAS was released on schedule in August 2004 to all practices and PCTs with NHSnet access and to the NHS Bank. Since then ten GP Clinical System Suppliers have been rolling out their own reporting application to their practices. This application enables practices to submit clinical achievement reports to QMAS via an electronic interface.

To date over 80% of GMS and PMS practices have successfully registered with QMAS with 80% submitting regular reports and 45% of practices have manually added organisational domain indicators.

For information on GP Clinical System Supplier roll out status visit:
http://www.nhs.uk/sat/testing/pages/gp_clinical.asp

PCTs – making use of QMAS

All PCTs (100%) have accessed QMAS via a web browser. They are able to see current individual practice achievement, estimated relative prevalence and payments. When planning cash flow, PCTs should note that QOF achievement could rise disproportionately during the last few months of 2005/2006 as practices strive to maximise their QOF achievement payments. PCTs only have access to information on those practices for which they are responsible.

QMAS Training website

To date over 8,000 people have accessed the training website and have made use of the various training modules and QMAS user manuals for personal study. Feedback reveals that many users have used the material for in-house education and PCT wide training sessions.

QMAS users continue to provide valuable feedback and ideas for future enhancements. These ideas are being discussed by the QMAS training team and many of them will be incorporated as the training modules are developed.

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

SHAs – Gaining access to QMAS

SHA GMS leads and their colleagues will have access to QMAS in December. They will be able to view SHA level QOF summary reports and PCT level QOF achievement reports within their authority. These reports are an extension of existing PCT level reports which are in effect one level higher in the hierarchy.

SHAs will be able to drill down to their individual PCTs. They will not be able to drill down to individual practice level reports. A detailed bulletin was sent to all SHA leads at the end of October.

To see the SHA Guidance notes and other bulletins visit: <http://www.npfit.nhs.uk/programmes/qmas>

Aspiration setting for 2005/2006

For the financial year 2004/2005 GMS and PMS practices participating in the full national QOF received an advance QOF payment that was based on a percentage of their aspiration. In April 2005 a further payment is to be made that represents the difference between their advanced aspiration payment and what they actually achieve.

Aspiration setting for the financial year 2005/2006 will be based on a practice's previous year's achievement as apposed to an aspiration. Practices will again receive an advanced QOF payment.

There are exceptions to that rule. These being:

1. Those practices that did not receive an achievement payment in the previous year e.g. new practices. These practices will need to aspire in order to receive an aspiration payment.
2. Those practices that agree with their PCT that an aspiration is appropriate. This may be due, for example, a significant change in the practice's circumstances that may mean that a payment based on the previous years achievement would be incorrect.

These practices will aspire and have their advance payment based on that aspiration.

Although only those practices excepted above must aspire in order to acquire an aspiration payment any practice can choose to do so without it resulting in a payment. Many practices may choose to do so to ensure that the quality of service to their patients in the forthcoming year is improved based on an objectively set target rather than an arbitrary percentage of their previous years achievement.

This aspiration setting will be done using new QMAS web based forms. The look and feel of these forms will be like the interim aspiration utility worksheets from which this year's aspiration was set. These new forms will be available in December 2004.

What practices need to do

In December all practice users that currently have access to the role "**Practice QOF Data – View and Update**" will automatically be given access to a new function called "**Enter Aspiration Data**".

If required (see "Aspiration Setting for 2005/2006" above) then this new function will allow a practice to enter their aspiration data for the year 2005/06 via a series of web forms which are based on the interim aspiration utility that practices used to enter their 2004/05 aspiration data.

The QMAS Training Website will be updated in December with full instructions on how to use the new function.

QMAS Training website: www.qmastraining.nhs.uk

What PCTs need to do

In December a new function called "**Aspiration Management**" will be made available to PCT users. Before the new function can be used, the PCT user will need to be given access to a new role called "**PCT QOF Management**". To arrange this, the PCT user should contact their PCT QMAS User Administrator.

The QMAS Training Website will be updated in December with full instructions on how to use the new function.

QMAS Training website: www.qmastraining.nhs.uk
