

GMS IT – QMAS Implementation Bulletin

This bulletin builds on the QMAS Update Bulletin of July 2006. It brings you an update of current QMAS activity and outlines the changes to QMAS that will be effective from 28th August 2006. 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: www.qmastraining.nhs.uk

QOF 2006/7 Reporting

Since 1st April 2006 QMAS has not been displaying QOF achievement reports for financial year 2006/7.

Before your practice can see achievement reports for 2006/7 two things need to happen:

1. QMAS upgrade

This is planned to be complete by 28th August 2006. The QMAS training website will be updated at the same time and includes revised user manuals and tutorials which reflect the revised QOF for 2006/07.

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:

<http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/delivery/programmes/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 2006/7.

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 September 21st 2006, it will submit a monthly report for April, May, June, July and August. 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 2006-07: <http://www.nhsemployers.org/primary/index.cfm>
For the latest QOF Business Rules v8.5: <http://www.primarycarecontracting.nhs.uk/145.php>
For GP suppliers GMS Certification status: www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/delivery/programmes/qmas/

QOF Assessor Review Visits

QOF Assessor Review visits commence from October 2006, and your practice will normally have to produce up-to-date QMAS reports before the visit is due. It may be the case that your clinical system will not have been upgraded in time to be able to produce these reports.

If this could be the case, you may want to consider speaking with your PCT to re-schedule the visit until after your clinical supplier has upgraded your practice system.

Prevalence values for August 2006 – a note of caution

In August 2006 there will be a low number of practice submissions. This will affect the August 2006 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 2005/06. 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 September, 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.

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 end of August 2006.

What will I be able to see before then?

Existing QMAS functionality is available i.e. all reports for 2005/2006 and earlier are available to view.

Does my clinical system continue to submit my achievement data?

Yes. This will continue to be submitted each month although submissions for financial year 2006/07 will not be shown on QMAS until the upgrade of QMAS is complete and your GP clinical system supplier has upgraded your clinical system.

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

When will the QMAS training website be upgraded?

The upgraded QMAS training website to reflect the new and revised indicators will be available at the end of August 2006.

For QMAS training: www.qmastraining.nhs.uk

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 2006/07?

Revisions to the GMS Contract 2006-07 are published on the NHS Employers website. See link below

For Revisions to the GMS Contract 2006-07: <http://www.nhsemployers.org/primary/index.cfm>

Where do I find the new QOF Business Rules for 2006/07?

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

For the latest QOF Business Rules v8.5: <http://www.primarycarecontracting.nhs.uk/145.php>

Who receives the QMAS Bulletins?

The QMAS team email QMAS Bulletins to PCT QOF Leads for their information, to cascade within their PCT and to all their practices participating in the QOF. The bulletins are also emailed to SHA GMS Leads, PCC Advisors, GP clinical system suppliers and the NHS Bank.

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. See link below

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