

GMS IT – NHS Reorganisation and QMAS

As you will be aware, the new Primary Care Trust (PCT) organisation structure comes into effect on 1st October 2006. This bulletin gives you information on how this will affect QMAS and the implications this may have to your PCT users' access to QMAS.

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

QMAS Changes

QMAS holds details of all the PCTs and the practices that they are responsible for. This allows QMAS to reflect the organisation structure in terms of user access, reporting and the end of year achievement approval process. For example a PCT user can see aggregated reports on QMAS based on all the practices that they are responsible for.

The details of PCTs and practices are provided to QMAS by the Exeter system. PCTs have been updating the Exeter system, using the ED and HG screens, to reflect the organisation structure that comes into effect on 1st October and because of this, QMAS will receive the new organisation details at the end of September.

Over the weekend 30th September/1st October QMAS will receive the details of the closing and opening PCTs and the practices that will be associated with the new PCTs. Whilst the reorganisation is taking place over the weekend, QMAS itself will not be available for any users.

Once the PCT and Practice reorganisation has been set up on QMAS, Users and User Roles may need to be reconfigured to reflect the new organisational structure.

It is important to note that access to QMAS for Practice User Roles are unaffected by these changes.

PCT user access to QMAS after 1st October 2006

For PCTs where no new National PCT Code has been introduced as part of the NHS Reorganisation, access to QMAS for those PCT Users and User Roles is unaffected.

For PCTs where the PCT splits into two or more new PCTs OR two or more PCTs merges into a single PCT (i.e. new National PCT Codes have been introduced as part of the NHS Reorganisation) it will be necessary to reconfigure PCT Users and PCT User Roles to reflect the new organisational structure.

During this reconfiguration period, access to PCT User Roles on QMAS and therefore the functionality a PCT user can use will be limited depending on which QMAS roles are currently assigned to that PCT User.

Although the PCT User Roles for the old PCT will be initially available after 2nd October, it may be that no QMAS functionality will be available as the PCT may have no Practices associated with it (as all Practice previously associate with the old PCT will have been associated with the new PCT).

Until the PCT Users Roles have been migrated to the new PCT organisational structure, this means you may not be able to

- View PCT reports
- Make PCT Adjustments
- Manage or Approve Practice Achievement
- Manage Practice Aspiration

The migration of User Roles from the old PCT structure to the new PCT structure is planned for completion as early as possible, with an aim for completion before the end of October.

It is regretful that this means PCTs will lose access to PCT level reports for a short period of time, particularly as it is the start of the QOF Assessor period. However, it is useful to remember that

- Practice User Roles are unaffected so PCTs can still request QMAS information form the practices
- Any PCT staff that Practice User Roles (e.g to make submissions on behalf of a practice) will have unaffected access to QMAS for those Practice User Roles

We will email you again shortly to let you know migration details are complete.

Frequently Asked Questions

This section outlines the most common questions likely to be asked regarding the NHS reorganisation and QMAS

When does the new PCT organisation structure come into effect?

The new organisation structure comes into effect on 1st October 2006.

What will happen on QMAS to PCTs that are not changing?

PCTs that are not part of the reorganisation are not affected and can continue to use QMAS as normal

Are practices on QMAS affected by the reorganisation?

Practices can still log on to QMAS and access functionality and reports as normal.

What about practices within my PCT that are waiting for their end of year achievement payment to be approved?

Until the migration is complete and the relevant user has had the PCT QOF Finance role assigned to them by their QMAS User Administrator, the practice achievement payment can not be approved.

When can I find out more about the NHS Reorganisation in general?

You can find out more on the Department of Health website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/OrganisationPolicy/HealthReform/HealthReformArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4135663&chk=4bDZqY

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.

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

For technical support contact the QMAS support team: 0845 6016907
