

QOF agreement for 2012/13

As part of the 2012/13 GMS contract changes, the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) and NHS Employers have agreed a number of changes to the quality and outcomes framework (QOF) effective from 1 April 2012.

The key changes are:

- the retirement of seven indicators (CHD13, AF4, QP1, QP2, QP3, QP4, QP5) releasing 45 points to fund new and replacement indicators
- the replacement of seven indicators with eight NICE recommended replacement indicators, focusing on six clinical areas namely Diabetes, Mental Health, Asthma, Depression, Atrial Fibrillation and Smoking
- the introduction of nine new NICE recommended clinical indicators, including two new clinical areas (Atrial Fibrillation, Smoking, PAD and Osteoporosis)
- the introduction of three new organisational indicators for improving Quality and Productivity which focus on accident and emergency attendances
- amendments to indicator wording for CHD9, CHD10, CHD14, Stroke12, DM26, DM27, DM28 and DEM3
- inclusion of telephone reviews for Epilepsy 6.

Quality and productivity indicators

The six quality and productivity (QP) indicators covering outpatient referrals and emergency admissions have been agreed for a further year. Three new QP indicators on accident and emergency (A&E) attendances have been introduced for one year and are aimed at reducing avoidable A&E attendances. These indicators continue to be aimed at securing a more effective use of NHS resources through improvements in the quality of primary care.

Guidance on 'Quality and Productivity Accident and Emergency' will be published shortly. This guidance will be published separately and in advance of the national QOF guidance, to help practices and Primary Care Organisations prepare for their implementation. This guidance will be incorporated in the national QOF guidance document when it is published in due course and will be supplemented by additional guidance and FAQs.

Miscellaneous changes

In addition to the above, a number of other changes have been agreed as follows:

Changes to the points values for the following indicators:

- BP4 - reduced by eight points to eight points
- BP5 - reduced by two points to 55 points
- DM2 - reduced by two points to one point
- DM22 - reduced by two points to one point
- CKD2 - reduced by two points to four points
- Smoking3 (now Smoking5) – reduced by five points to 25 points
- Smoking4 (now Smoking6) – reduced by five points to 25 points

A number of threshold changes as follows:

1. raising all lower thresholds for indicators currently 40-90% to 50-90%,
2. raising all lower thresholds for indicators currently with an upper threshold between 70-85% to 45%,
3. a number of upper threshold changes for indicators CHD6, CHD10, PP1, PP2, HF4, STROKE6, STROKE8, DM17, DM31, and COPD10
4. lower and upper threshold changes for BP5, MH10 and DEM2.

ASTHMA3 has been renumbered to ASTHMA10 following a change to the business rules to include a new exception cluster.

DEP1 and DEP4 have been renumbered to DEP6 and DEP7 respectively following a change to the prevalence calculation to apply to all new diagnosis of depression from April 2006.

MH14 has been renumbered to MH19 following a change to the business rules to include an exclusion cluster for patients already diagnosed with CVD.

Records23 has moved into the clinical domain and the supporting business rules have been amended. This indicator is renumbered to Smoking7.

Education1 has been renumbered to Education11 due a change to the indicator wording.

A 'Summary of 2012/13 QOF indicator changes' of the indicator wording, points and thresholds is available in a PDF to the right.

NICE menu of recommended changes to the Quality and Outcomes Framework

On 1 August 2011 the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published the 2012/13 menu of QOF recommendations.

For full details of the recommendations made by NICE along with any relevant supporting documents, please see the NICE website
<http://www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/qof/indicators.jsp>