

Announcement of methodological changes to Quality and Outcomes Framework

Background

The Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) publication includes a number of outputs and calculations to maximise the accessibility and utility of the data to as many user types as possible.

In order to strike the optimum balance between providing this range of outputs and producing a release of manageable size and complexity, we regularly review the usage and value offered by each of the publication's components. To this end, we have identified that the following aspects of the release could be removed:

- The 'Main Findings' page
- The 'total points for indicators where register exists' and 'points achieved out of max. points available (%)' calculated fields

Methodological changes

1. Removal of the 'Main Findings' page
This page, and its associated charts, will no longer be produced.
2. Removal of adjusted maximum points calculated fields
Values for the following fields in the 'Achievement at practice level, all domains' .xlsx file will no longer be calculated and published:
 - Total points for indicators where register exists. (Max QOF points available)
 - Points achieved/ max. QOF points available (%)

Timing

The first publication to be affected by this change will be the August 2025 release, which will cover the period April 2024 – March 2025.

Impact

The impact of removing the 'Main Findings' webpage is anticipated to be small. No responses to the publication survey in recent years have indicated that users make use of this page, preferring instead to use the .xlsx tables or .csv files. Any significant findings are shown in the Key Facts section of the main publication page, and since year-on-year changes to QOF tend to be small, much of the content here is virtually unchanged each year.

The impact of removing the adjusted maximum points calculated fields from the Achievement at practice level, all domains' .xlsx file is anticipated to be small. There are few instances of practices not having a disease register and thus having a different maximum points value. In 2023-24, of the 6,267 practices included, only 112 (1.8%) had a value that differed.

Further information

Questions and feedback on the publication are welcomed and should be sent to gpses@nhs.net, or alternatively call 0300 303 5678.