

Statement of Administrative Sources



Annex B: Supporting metadata

Organisation	The Information Centre for Health and Social Care (The NHS Information Centre for health and Social Care) http://www.ic.nhs.uk/	
Enquiries	Please contact the NHS Information Centre (NHS IC) Contact centre Telephone: 0845 300 6016 and email: enquiries@ic.nhs.uk	
Responsible Statistician	Name: David Lloyd Section: Prescribing Support Unit	
Section 1: Statistical End Product	Quality and Outcomes Framework, Achievement Data (annual publication for financial year)	
Section 2: Original Administrative/Management Source/System	Name	Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) data from QMAS system
	Name of the organisation responsible	NHS Connecting for Health (NHS CfH)
	Purpose of the administrative source	QOF payments to GP practices under General Medical Services contract

Information provided is believed to be correct as of June 2010 and may be subject to change.

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	Unit of Inquiry	General practice
	Intended Coverage	All general practices that participate in Quality and Outcomes Framework
	Actual Coverage	All general practices that participate in Quality and Outcomes Framework
	Geographical Coverage	The QOF data are collected at general practice (GP practice) level, and the dataset covers all general practices in England. The information is aggregated by organisation – practice, Primary Care Trust (PCT), Strategic Health Authority (SHA) – and is not based on patient place of residence. The dataset covers all of England but is not broken down by geographical area within England.
	Lowest level of Geographical Coverage	The dataset is organisational, not geographical. The lowest organisational level is the GP practice.
	Extent to which statistical end-producers can influence system?	The source system is to support GP payments, and NHS CfH (which delivers the source QMAS system) consults with stakeholders such as the Department of Health, NHS organisations and general practices. There is also dialogue between the NHS IC and CfH, but the NHS IC does not seek to influence the source system for publication purposes.
	Data definitions used	Clinical and organisational data definitions are described in business rules underpinning QOF data. QOF business rules are published on the Primary Care Commissioning web site at: http://www.pcc.nhs.uk/qof-business-rules
	Classification systems used	QOF indicators are grouped into clinical, organisational, patient experience and additional services ‘domains’.
	Data	1)Periodicity/Timing
		There is routine data collection from GP practices into the QMAS

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	Collection Process	2)Validation process	source system – at least monthly. The data collection process is subject to validation and verification at PCT level as part of approval of QOF payments to practices.
	Access Arrangements		Source system may be accessed by appropriate users, eg GP practices and PCTs. The NHS IC's access to the data is based on a service agreement.
	Dissemination Procedures		Publication is only by the NHS IC. Reporting functionality is available from the source database for authorised users to support GP payment processes.
	Publication procedure		Source organisation does not separately publish.
	Timing/Periodicity of public release		Source organisation does not separately publish.
	Nature of changes to system that could impact on statistics		There are periodic changes to the source datasets – the Quality and Outcomes Framework is subject to annual review and national negotiation that can result in new indicator being introduced, existing indicators withdrawn, or the basis for achievement for indicators being amended. However, this is managed within the NHS IC's publication, where all changes are referenced.

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Section 3: Change Process	Changes to the Quality and Outcomes Framework may arise from review of indicators (with NICE having lead responsibility for proposing new indicators). Any changes are subject to national negotiation, involving the Department of Health, NHS Employers and the General Practitioners Committee of the British Medical Association. Agreed changes are subject to data change notices, implemented in collaboration with GP clinical information system suppliers, so that the QMAS system collects the correct data under current arrangements. This information forms the basis for data extracts to the NHS IC for publication.	
Section 4: The subsequent statistical production process	Validation procedures	<p>For QOF Achievement publication, internal checking of data to be published is undertaken by the Prescribing Support Unit within the NHS IC, and QA is supported by Department of Health colleagues.</p> <p>PCT QOF leads are consulted on practices to be included in the publication – this provides a QA review and allows additional notes (on local context) to be provided as part of the publication.</p>
	Quality assessment	In the publication there is a description of the coverage of QOF data, in terms of numbers of GP practices and proportion of registered populations. The published Statistical Bulletin provides background notes on any 'issues' with the data, and suggests ways in which use of data may be inappropriate (for example in the construction of 'league tables'). However, it is generally noted that QOF data provides an extremely rich data resource, which is comprehensive in terms of

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		<p>relevant clinical indicators, and which is robust because of its primary purpose (its use in determining aspects of GP practice payments, subject to extensive local scrutiny).</p> <p>Quality assurance is partly at source – the information is used to calculate payments to GP practices, and therefore is subject to considerable scrutiny by practices and PCTs within the sources system.</p> <p>Prior to publication the NHS IC undertakes a validation exercise with QOF leads at PCTs, who confirm overall levels of QOF achievement for their practices, and who confirm the set of GP practices for which information will be published.</p> <p>Additional statistical checks are carried out, for example to ensure that indicator numerators are not greater than denominators.</p>
	Periodicity of release	Annual in September
	Potential impact of changes to the source on the statistics produced	No damaging impact – the source evolves, and the publication reflects this evolution.
	Procedures for mitigating such discontinuities	Supporting notes and explanations are provided in the publication where the source is subject to change from the previous year.

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