

NHS Scotland GMS Implementation

GMS NATIONAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT WORKING GROUP

Note of the meeting held on 7 March 2007, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm, Inglewood House, Alloa

Present:

Dr Mike Winter, Associate Medical Director, NHS Lothian (MW) (Chair)
Dr David Alexander, SGPC (DA)
Anne Bryce, Chief Internal Auditor, NHS GG&C (AB)
Tom Clackson, GMS Contract Manager, NHS GG&C (TC)
Fiona Duff, Primary Care Adviser, NHS Highland (FD)
Steve Faulkner, Primary Care Contract Manager, NHS Lothian (SF)
Dr Nadine Harrison, Medical Adviser, SEHD (NH)
Dr Andy Kilpatrick, GMS Lead, NHS Fife (AK)
Dr Karen Lefevre, SCIMP Director, SCIMP (KL)
Dr Bill Taylor, QOF Training, RCGP (BT)
Jan Warner, Director (Performance Assessment), NHS QIS (JW)
David Whipps, Quality Manager, NHS Forth Valley (DW)
Steven Wilson, Performance Assessment Manager, NHS QIS (SW)

In attendance:

Dr Malcolm Kerr, Primary Care Adviser, NHS QIS (MK)
Lee Henderson, GMS / PC Programme Support Team (LH) (*notes*)

Apologies:

Gordon Birnie, Dr Susan Burney, Tony Callaghan, Liz Duncan, Joan Forrest, Stewart MacDonald, Ian McDonald, Mary Mitchell, Martin Moffat, Arlene Napier, Amanda Reece, Dr Mairi Scott, Dr Pauline Strachan

1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

MW welcomed the group and noted that LH of the GMS / Primary Care Programme Support Team will be providing future administrative support to the group.

The remit of the group is broader than GMS with eHealth agendas critical. Colleagues from QIS have been invited to give a presentation on the Quality Improvement agenda. The Quality Improvement Working Group meeting should be used as an opportunity to share local agendas.

The Winter III sub group will reconvene to discuss the updated Winter III guidance and report at the next meeting. **Action MW**

2. Note of the Meeting of 27 October 2006

The note of the meeting held on 27 October 2006 was agreed as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

QOF Plus

SF provided an update on the completed 'QOF Plus' programme pilot in East Lothian CHP and reported a good interim evaluation by practices who viewed the information as having added value to the standard QOF visit. A formal evaluation is currently being completed and will be made available to the service over the next few weeks. **Action SF**

An advisory group has been established by NHS QIS to review the QOF Practice Analyser software, developed by Professor Bruce Guthrie and colleagues at the University of Dundee. Timescales and deliveries for the project are to be agreed between the University of Dundee and NHS QIS. The intention is for a web based version of the tool to be made available to the service, hosted by ISD.

SW will meet with programmers on 9 March to discuss the software and with the Central Legal Office to establish property rights as the software is to be available across Scotland. Links will need to be made with RCGP in respect of training and support to Boards, and incorporated into the QOF reviewer training.

Emphasis has been made in the Winter III guidance that the QOF Plus is additional to the standard QOF review programme and not a requirement. NHS Boards are to secure total agreement with LMC / General Practitioner Sub-Committee if QOF Plus is to be considered.

4. Presentation and Discussion led by Dr Malcolm Kerr and Steven Wilson – ‘NHS QIS: Shifting the Focus – a Strategic Spotlight on Quality Improvement in Community and Primary Health Care Services’

MK provided a presentation on the above consultation document (appendix 1) and highlighted that the work programme has since been updated. The final programme will be published in the near future. NHS QIS are still consulting on the document and views should be forwarded to MK as soon as possible. **Action ALL**

AK and DA noted their concern that the document was adding another layer of bureaucracy and the impact this will have to CHPs and practices was raised. Members agreed that the process should be implemented at CHP level and not practice level although practices should be made aware of the process. The document will not influence the nationally agreed contract monitoring process.

The mapping exercise document is available on the NHS QIS website and is aimed at preventing duplication of work. The final stage of the mapping exercise identified other groups but this needs to be done in stages and NHS QIS are looking for input. It was suggested that support services and health care packages, particularly those services without contracts, should be looked at to ensure they are being monitored. NHS QIS should be used as a vehicle to ensure that effective local initiatives are shared across Boards.

SF suggested that pilot projects of individual strands might be looked at instead of the programme as a whole, and that the CHP strand might be an appropriate starting point.

All discussions on the consultation document will be circulated for further comment. **Action SW**

5. National Primary Care Evaluation Group

NH confirmed the name of the group as the ‘Primary Care Quality Evaluation Group’ (PCQEG) with the next meeting taking place on 21 March 2007.

A letter has been sent to all NHS Boards via GMS leads requesting that details of analytic work which has been undertaken or is underway in relation to the QOF, be forwarded to NH by Friday 12 March.

The group will try to establish a methodology for evaluation to address eg health inequalities, shifting the balance of care, health care improvement. The challenge will be interpreting information in a useful way which may be done by focusing initially on specific indicators.

A progress update will be brought to the next meeting.

Action NH

Secondary use of data is already being undertaken and NH will contact Dr Frances Elliot to link in with work being done by ISD and SPICE. NH is linking into academic work through contacts at 4 different universities. It is hoped that data will be able to inform the questions around the impact QOF is having on services.

The QOF Queries group, a subgroup of the PCQEG, has been established to review the QOF query process and to ensure an effective procedure for handling queries. The group will link with the development of the Pay Modernisation website. It was added that the queries published on the website must cross link with the BMA website to ensure consistency.

Action NH

6. Update Winter III Working Group

The Winter III guidance has been renamed 'NHS Scotland Framework for QOF review process 2007/08' to disassociate 'Winter'.

The document has been redrafted to reflect this year's work, given that there has been no significant change to the QOF domains, and will be distributed by the end of March 2007. The following aspects of the guidance were highlighted:

- Continues to encourage multi-disciplinary review teams
- Training for reviewers remains mandatory and refresher training is required to ensure continuity of approach
- Formal internal appraisals of QOF reviewers is encouraged but does not suggest certified training

AB indicated that PV protocols are being updated and include more detail in relation to QOF. The protocols have been commented on by SGPC and the reviewed protocol will be distributed by March.

7. QOF Reviewers Training Group

The RCGP QOF Reviewers Training Group now reports directly to GMS Leads. Updates are to be provided to the group.

RCGP have agreed a 2 year contract to provide QOF review training from April 2007. A report on the evaluation of the training will be taken to the RCGP QOF Reviewers Training Group. The training manual is being revised which includes a question and answer section.

Training needs in relation to the QOF Plus is being looked at by RCGP in case there is a demand from NHS Boards.

8. QMAS Users Group

AK provided an update on the QMAS users group highlighting the following:

- Upgrades to QMAS have gone well and boards are well placed for end of year run
- Issue with the year end landing on a Saturday / Sunday
- Sign off time table has been issued and is a tight timescale given Easter holidays

- Upgrades to QMAS have been put on hold to focus on statutory upgrades, but will continue later in the year
- Scotland is scheduled to have negotiations with British Telecom at the end of the year
- A national (UK wide) user group will be identified which will be beneficial to influence changes needed in Scotland. TC elected as deputy Chair of the Scottish QMAS user Group.

FD confirmed that NHS Highland had not received the time table for sign off. PSD will be contacted urgently to make sure the timetable has been distributed. **Action AK Tony Callaghan**

The additional guidance in support of the year end reporting provided by PV will be updated. It was highlighted that this guidance will be needed by the 16 March to be of any use, as Boards have begun to plan for year end sign off.

A letter has been issued to Boards from ISD outlining their cost structure and that ISD will be recharging costs. This will be discussed formally with Tony Callaghan as MW is not aware of any agreement to this.

9. AOCB/Items for Future Meetings

The Quality Practice Award, as outlined in the Winter I guidance, has been continued into year two by many practices with RCGP offering a range of modules to support this.

BT is awaiting the view of NHS QIS as to whether practices who undertake QPA should benefit though the QOF review and will feed back at the next meeting. **Action BT**

It was confirmed that GMS Leads are looking at Enhanced Services although it would be beneficial for the group to have a debate in order to inform discussion. To start discussion at the next meeting, TC will provide a presentation on Enhanced Services around long term conditions and how this feeds into the overall strategy. **Action TC**

10. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 6 June 2007 at 10.30am – 12.30pm, Forrester Room, Inglewood House.
Agenda items and papers to nationalgmsprog@lpct.scot.nhs.uk by 18 May 2007