

NHS SCOTLAND

GMS IMPLEMENTATION – QUALITY IMPROVEMENT WORKING GROUP

WINTER III SUB GROUP

Wednesday 31 January 2007

Management Centre, University of Stirling

Present:

Mike Winter – Chair
Fiona Duff (*telephone conference*)
Steve Faulkner
Nadine Harrison
Andy Kilpatrick
Bill Taylor
Steven Wilson

Apologies:

David Alexander
Ian MacDonald
Claire Sweeney

In Attendance:

Lee Henderson (*minutes*)

1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

1.1 Introductions and apologies were given. MW advised this was the first meeting supported by the new GMS national team based within NHS Lothian.

2. Notes of the Last Meeting

2.1 The notes of the meeting held on 13 December 2006 were agreed as an accurate record, subject to the deletion of the following sentence in section 2. *Matters Arising – Update QMAS: “MW reminded the group that QMAS could misrepresent where a practice is, and as a result Health Boards may encounter a higher rate of appeals”.*
It was agreed to discuss this further under matters arising.

Matters Arising

2.2 NHS QIS – Final 3Qs Report

All local QOF reports have now been published and posted on the NHS QIS website. NHS QIS are currently considering whether or not the national report should be anonymised. Those present had no objections to identifying Boards in the national report since this information could be gained by cross referencing individual local reports. SW advised that NHS Boards have been invited to submit an action plan to NHS QIS where it will be reviewed and then published on the web; this would be a voluntary submission.

2.3 Update on QMAS

The QMAS user group have some concerns over the timescales involved to finalise business rules before the end of January. Although there are some technical issues with QMAS, AK was confident a reliable reflection of practice achievement for QOF indicators will be given.

It was clarified that PSD will be dealing exclusively with the QMAS returns and adjustments and queries should be directed to Tony Callaghan. Any adjustments made by individual Boards will be overruled by PSD.

2.4 QOF Reviewer Training Contract

It was agreed at a recent GMS Leads meeting that RCGP will be invited to continue with the contract to provide reviewer training. MW will follow up this decision as no formal notification has been received by RCGP from John Turner's office.

Action MW

3. Update on National Negotiations on GMS Contract and QOF

- 3.1 It was noted that the national negotiations have broken down, that GPC put a case to the DDRB, and that NHS employers have now also submitted a case. DDRB will decide by late February whether they have the power to intervene given that the GMS contract is with the practice and not individual clinicians.
- 3.2 There is ongoing debate regarding QOF clinical indicators, although it was suggested that given the timescale involved to update IT systems, any change, if agreed, would apply to thresholds and ranges of existing indicators and not to new domains.

4. Draft: 'NHS Scotland Framework for QOF review process 2007/08' (Winter III)

- 4.1 MW thanked those who had commented on the draft 'NHS Scotland Framework to QOF Review Process 2007/08' and emphasised that the paper was still only a working draft.

- 4.2 The group worked through the document to ensure clarity and agreed a number of changes:

- an executive summary should be included at the beginning of the report to provide an overview of content **Action MW**
- SF will develop an extract from the 'NHS QIS QOF 3Qs' to guide the format of a Health Board QOF report. **Action SF by 9/2/07**
- It was agreed to discontinue the 'QOF Review – A Guide for Practices' as most of the information is included in the document under discussion. BillT agreed to develop a short guide for practices; to include a template for the practice report; to be included as an annex for practices. **Action BillT by 9/2/07**
- SF agreed to develop the draft annex regarding QOF Plus. It was recognised the web tools is unlikely to be available till late 2007 and so usage during this review cycle will be patchy. **Action SF by 9/2/07**
- The whole document will be updated to include the additions, deletions and amendments that were discussed and agreed by the group and a final draft will be re-circulated for the group to sense check and, once agreed, this will be offered for wider comment. DA will be asked to take the paper to SGPC. **Action MW**

- 4.3 Any additional information would be made available on the Pay Modernisation website. The review and update of this website was highlighted for action and would be taken forward by the national GMS / Primary Care Implementation Team as part of the agreed overall programme.

- 4.4 MW had been invited to meet with RCGP to discuss the ongoing development of Quality Improvement supports. Practices are wishing to understand whether these would be recognised through QOF. This was agreed as consistent with current QPA but no guarantee could be offered at this stage.

- 4.5 It was noted that the decision to formally accredit reviewers lies with individual Boards. There was no real appetite in this being done nationally recognising the assessment of competency would completely alter the basis of the training contract placed with RGCP.

- 4.6 MW stated that although the QOF visits are intended to be supportive, there is still a need for robust process to give assurance and satisfy financial audit. FD raised the issue of PV visits identifying matters that were not highlighted in QOF visits. It was unclear if it was in connection with the approach the PV teams were taking or an issue with the QOF guidance. It was noted that both teams work within the same regulations. It was agreed that this topic should remain as a standing agenda item.

5. AOCB

- 5.1 There has been no formal progress in relation to developing a new patient survey although it is anticipated that SEHD will be contacting Boards in the coming months requesting information on their findings from patient questionnaires in previous years.

6. Date of Next Meeting

- 6.1 It was agreed to cancel the meeting scheduled for 7 March 2007 and correspond electronically regarding the draft report.
- 6.2 Any significant issues could be discussed, if required, after the GMS Quality Implementation Group meeting on 7 March 2007 at 1pm, Forrester Room, Inglewood.
- 6.3 A future date will be circulated if the group is invited to continue its work into a future year. All members were thanked for their application and effort.