

Fact sheet

Differences in Quality and Outcomes Framework achievement thresholds between the four nations

Practice teams will now be aware that this year's set of General Medical Services contract changes saw a substantial number of indicators replaced, a rise in the thresholds for payment for more than a few indicators, and a re-evaluation of many Quality and Outcomes Framework points. Considerable differences have now become apparent between the four nations of the NHS in the ways that the General Medical

Services contract is being implemented (Kenny, 2013).

Diabetes & Primary Care presents the changes to the diabetes domain achievement thresholds in tabular form for the first time. Teams will also need to seek local guidance on the time scales within which these thresholds apply, as there are important differences between the nations in this area as well. This could have a significant impact on workflow for all of us. ■

Sources

- British Medical Association (2013) *Survival guide for increase in upper thresholds*. BMA, London. Available at: <http://bit.ly/1aWHWLM> (accessed 31.07.13)
- British Medical Association Scotland, Scottish Government (2013) *Scottish Quality and Outcomes Framework 2013/2014*. Scottish Government Health and Social Care Directorates, Edinburgh
- British Medical Association Wales, Welsh Assembly Government (2013) *Quality and Outcomes Framework Guidance for the GMS Contract Wales 2013/14*. Welsh Assembly Government, Cardiff
- Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (2013) *Summary of Main QOF changes for NI 2013/14*. DHSSPS, Belfast
- Kenny C (2013) General Medical Services contract changes for 2013/14. *Diabetes & Primary Care* 15: 61–4

QOF 2013–14: Indicators in the diabetes domain with differences in achievement thresholds between the four nations.*

2013–14 indicator code, with brief summary†	2012–13 achievement threshold	2013–14 achievement threshold	2013–14 achievement threshold	2013–14 achievement threshold	2013–14 achievement threshold
		England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
DM002 Last blood pressure reading ≤150/90 mmHg	45–71%	53–93%	65–70%	45–71%	51–91%
DM003 Last blood pressure reading ≤140/80 mmHg	40–65%	38–78%	40–65%	40–65%	40–72%
DM004 Last total cholesterol measurement ≤5 mmol/L	40–75%	40–75%	60–80%	40–75%	40–75%
DM006 Patients with nephropathy or micro-albuminuria treated with an ACE inhibitor or ARB	45–80%	57–97%	45–80%	50–90%	51–91%
DM007 Last HbA _{1c} reading ≤59 mmol/mol (7.5%)	40–50%	35–75%	40–50%	40–50%	40–72%
DM008 Last HbA _{1c} reading ≤64 mmol/mol (8.0%)	45–70%	43–83%	65–70%	45–70%	45–81%
DM009 Last HbA _{1c} reading ≤75 mmol/mol (9.0%)	50–90%	52–92%	50–90%	50–90%	51–91%
DM010 Patients receiving flu immunisation during season	45–85%	55–95%	65–90%	50–90%	52–92%

*Thresholds that have changed from 2012–13 are emboldened in red. †For brevity, the indicator descriptions are summarised and, as such, do not provide all of the necessary information relating to achievement. For a full description of the indicators for your nation, please refer to the guidance with which you should have now been issued.

ACE=angiotensin-converting enzyme; ARB=angiotensin receptor blocker; QOF=Quality and Outcomes Framework.