

CLMC Bulletin 371 – 11.12.18

QoF Business Rules Coding Issues

Following the introduction of SNOMED (a clinical terminology that standardises terminology across different health locations) in 2018/19, NHS Digital's business rules team has been converting and mapping the READ and CTV3 codes into SNOMED, which has proved difficult and complex. Although there was always an expectation that there would be some errors as there are each year with the baseline version of QOF, a larger number than previous years have been detected:

- 85 codes have been identified and queried from the v39 baseline QOF business rules from the total of 16,000+ that QOF uses (0.5% of all the codes).
- Of these 85 queried codes 67 were incorrect and have been changed in v41 of the business rules
- Those 67 codes impact on 12 registers from the 28 in QOF

It was therefore agreed that v40, the mid-year release, would not be implemented as new errors were continuing to be reported, and that v41 would be used instead. The revised v41 business rules will be published on the [NHS Digital website](#) and have been distributed to suppliers. The affected registers are: Smoking, Dementia, Epilepsy, Heart failure, Asthma, Osteoarthritis, Stroke, CVD, AF and CHD.

NHS Digital has confirmed that no final QOF Payment will be affected. However, until mid-February there may be some slight errors in some reports, but practices should be able to identify which ones may be suspect by using the spreadsheet below.



FINALQOF_v41.0_changes_resulting_from

Rationing of Drugs in No-Brexit Deal

The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Matt Hancock, has written to practices to provide more information about the supply of medicines, vaccines and other items in the event of a no-deal Brexit. The letter is below.



18.06.12 - DHSC
Letter.pdf

Prescribing of Cannabis-Based Products

Following the publication of England's Chief Medical Officer's [open letter](#) about prescribing of cannabis-based products, The GPC have written to her to raise concerns regarding the mention of shared care prescribing and the potential pressure on GPs to prescribe outside their area of competence or contractual obligations. In response to their letter she said that the current legal position is that although the law allows these to be prescribed by GPs on the direction of a specialist *'the concerns of your colleagues around potential pressures on GPs to prescribe outside of their competence or contractual obligations are entirely valid ones. Healthcare professionals should never feel pressured to prescribe. NHS England and I published a letter on cannabis-based products for medicinal use on the 31st of October which mentions that in the first instance we expect specialist prescribing only.'*

The BMA has also published some [Q&As](#) to explain what these changes mean.

NHS Long Term Plan Briefing

NHS England has published the below briefing on the NHS Long Term Plan to update on the progress so far and the next steps after publication, as well as some of the policy announcements that have already been made.



Developing the LTP
December stakeholder

Workload Data

NHS Digital has published an important report outlining workload data about GP appointments. This is the first time that such detailed information has been collected, and it provides clear evidence of the huge workload delivered by practices on a daily basis. The report provides information on the following areas:

- the number of surgery appointments, home visits, telephone and online consultations
- type of healthcare professional leading the appointment
- the number of appointments where a patient did not attend
- the time between an appointment being booked and taking place

It shows that practices in England are booking more than a million appointments a day, many of which are taking place on the telephone and that practices are using a wide range of healthcare professionals to support their work. It also shows that the largest proportion of appointments are booked and attended on the same day and the majority take place within a week of booking.

While it does not include a wide range of tasks that GPs and their teams undertake on a daily basis, such as dealing with results and prescriptions, attending meetings and engaging in teaching, learning and development, and therefore does not show the totality of practice workload, it does provide definitive data which can help to underline the need for additional investment in to general practice.

Read the NHS Digital report [here](#).

Cameron Fund Newsletter

Below is the latest newsletter



Autumn Winter 2018
Newsletter_LMCs.pdf

GPC Newsletter

Read the latest GPC UK newsletter [here](#)