



***National Institute for
Health and Clinical Excellence***

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PRESS RELEASE

**NICE welcomes topic suggestions for 2013/14
QOF**

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) today (Monday 23 August) invites anyone with an interest in health to contribute to the development of the 2013/14 Quality Outcomes Framework (QOF). An online topic suggestion facility will allow stakeholders to submit ideas for potential new indicators based on NICE guidance or other NHS Evidence accredited sources. Everyone, including health professionals, patients, community groups and voluntary organisations is encouraged to take part via the NICE website using the [online topic suggestion facility](#) for potential QOF indicators.

The first phase of topic suggestion is open from Monday 23 August until Monday 20 September. When this four-week period closes each suggestion will be reviewed against criteria provided in the submission form and suitable suggestions for the QOF will be presented to an independent advisory committee to consider.

Dr Fergus Macbeth, Director, NICE Centre for Clinical Practice, said:

“We recognise the importance of making sure professional groups, patients and community and voluntary organisations have a clear opportunity to

contribute to the development of indicators at every stage of the NICE process for QOF. For this reason, our topic suggestion facility will encourage anyone with an interest in health to make their opinion heard. We actively encourage any recommendations and look forward to considering them at the QOF advisory committee meeting in December 2010.”

Ends

Notes to editors

About QOF

QOF

1. Introduced in 2004, the Quality and Outcomes framework (QOF) is a voluntary annual incentive scheme that rewards GP practices in the UK for implementing systematic improvements in quality of care for patients. The QOF operates through a points system which rewards GPs for their performance in relation to groups of indicators. These payments range from those relating to clinical and health improvement topics such as coronary heart disease and hypertension to patient experience topics such as the length of consultations. NICE’s role is only concerned with the clinical and health improvement indicators.
2. NICE took over the arrangements for managing the new process of developing indicators and reviewing the existing indicators in April 2009. It established a new independent Primary Care Quality and Outcomes Framework Indicator Advisory Committee responsible for reviewing existing QOF indicators and recommending new ones before producing a national “menu” of approved indicators which will be made available through the NICE website.
3. NICE will publish a proposed list of indicators for 2013/14 QOF, together with recommendations on indicators to be considered for retirement in summer 2012. NHS Employers (on behalf of the four UK health departments) and the General Practitioners Committee (GPC of the British Medical Association) will then decide which indicators will be included within the 2013/14 QOF. The final QOF indicators will be published by NHS Employers (NSHE).

About NICE

1. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is the independent organisation responsible for providing national guidance on the promotion of good health and the prevention and treatment of ill health.
2. NICE produces guidance in three areas of health:
 - **public health** – guidance on the promotion of good health and the prevention of ill health for those working in the NHS, local authorities and the wider public and voluntary sector
 - **health technologies** – guidance on the use of new and existing medicines, treatments and procedures within the NHS

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- **clinical practice** – guidance on the appropriate treatment and care of people with specific diseases and conditions within the NHS.