Quality Payments: NSAID audit now available

Specialist Pharmacy Service has published the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) audit, which community pharmacy contractors will need to complete if they intend to claim for the NSAID quality criterion at the February review point of the Quality Payments Scheme.

Contractors will need to have completed the audit, have notified a patient's GP where professional concerns are identified, share their anonymised data with NHS England (by submitting this to the NHS Business Services Authority (NHS BSA) who are collecting this information on behalf of NHS England) and have incorporated the learning of the audit into future practice by the review point (15th February 2019) to meet the NSAID quality criterion.

Data must be collected for two weeks with a minimum of ten patients participating in the audit. All patients aged 65 years or over who collect a prescription for any oral NSAID or cyclo-oxygenase-2 (COX2) selective inhibitor (this does not include patients prescribed aspirin) should be included in the audit. In cases where there is difficulty in finding ten patients to participate, the audit should be extended to four weeks after which contractors can submit the data with the number of patients they have if less than ten.

Contractors can choose to enter the data directly onto a web-based platform or use the paper form (a standalone form is available at psnc.org.uk/QP audit) to collect the data and then transfer the data onto a web-based platform to submit their results to NHS BSA. Two web-based systems are available for the audit; PharmOutcomes* or the NHS BSA Snap Survey.

Having reviewed both systems, PharmOutcomes has the following advantages over the NHS BSA Snap Survey:

- PharmOutcomes can send an automatic referral letter to a patient's GP practice (if the NHS BSA Snap Survey is used, contractors will need to manually send this referral letter (a template letter is available at psnc.org.uk/QP audit);
- A permanent patient record will be stored on PharmOutcomes; and
- Contractors will not be required to submit their data once they have entered all their audit data onto PharmOutcomes, the system will automatically do this for contractors (if using the NHS BSA Snap Survey, contractors will need to remember to press the 'Submit' button once they have completed all their data entry for this to be submitted to NHS BSA. Failure to submit the data will mean the contractor does not meet the NSAID quality criterion).

*The NSAID audit on PharmOutcomes is freely available to all contractors; PSNC has agreed to use their licence to provide access.

FAQs

Q. When do I need to complete the audit?
Contractors can pick a two-week period between November 2018 and 15th February 2019 to complete the audit; however, contractors are encouraged to not leave completion of the audit until February 2019 in case the data collection period needs to be extended to four weeks if contractors have difficulty in finding ten patients to participate.

Q. Will both of the web-based systems calculate my audit results?
Yes. Both of the web-based systems will calculate a contractor's results. If PharmOutcomes is used, contractors will be able to access the results in the 'Reports' section and can print this off as evidence of meeting the NSAID quality criterion. If the NHS BSA Snap Survey is used and the contractor enters an email address when submitting their results, the contractor will be emailed the results of their audit; this email should be retained as evidence of having met the NSAID quality criterion.

Contractors will, however, need to record how they have incorporated the learning of the audit into future practice elsewhere, as this information cannot be recorded on either of the web-based platforms.

Q. If I have not used PharmOutcomes before, how do I obtain log in details?
If a contractor has not used PharmOutcomes before, log in details can be obtained by sending a message to the PharmOutcomes helpdesk. Contractors will need to provide details of the pharmacy, contact information and an email address to issue the login details to.

Q. Where do I access the NSAID audit on PharmOutcomes?
When you log into PharmOutcomes select 'Services'; you should see 'NSAID GI Safety Audit 2018/19' under the 'National Audits' heading.

If you have mislaid your PharmOutcomes login details, visit the Help page.