Quality Payments: Have you started your NSAID audit?

Community pharmacy contractors who are planning to meet the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) audit quality criterion of the Quality Payments Scheme only have three weeks left to complete and submit their audit data to NHS England; contractors are therefore encouraged to start the audit as soon as possible, in case they are unable to find the minimum number of patients required for the audit during the 2 week data collection period and need to extend this.

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 present a prescription for any oral NSAID or 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. **Data must be submitted by the February review point (15th February 2019) in order to meet the NSAID audit quality criterion**.

More information, including the audit paperwork and information on how to submit your audit data, can be found on the PSNC website.

Frequently asked question

Q. I am unable to identify any suitable patients for the NSAID audit despite extending the data collection period to four weeks. Will I still be able to claim for this quality criterion?
Where a contractor is unable to complete the NSAID audit due to the fact that they have not identified any eligible patients during the audit period the contractor should send an email to the NHS BSA Provider Assurance Team at: nhsbsa.pharmacysupport@nhs.net with the following details:

The subject of the email should state "QPS NSAID AUDIT Nil return for [F code]"
The main body of the email should contain:
- Pharmacy F code, name, address
- Start and end date of the audit
- The following text should be included in the body of the email:
    - *"I declare that this pharmacy has undertaken the audit of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and gastro-protection for patients aged 65 or over during the period stated above but no suitable patients have been identified. I am therefore unable to complete the on-line audit tool.*
    - *I acknowledge that NHS BSA may carry out checks on behalf of NHS England to determine if any patients over 65 have received dispensed NSAID items from the pharmacy during the period advised"*
- Name of person making declaration and their role in the pharmacy