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# BMA

Cymru Wales

4 July 2019

Dear Colleagues,

## RE: National COPD and Asthma audit

As you are aware, last year there was a change to the data extraction process for the national COPD and Asthma audit which meant that there was a potential risk to practices, albeit small, for engaging in the audit extraction should the data be used outside agreed parameters. GPC Wales advised practices of this risk in line with our responsibilities when problems are identified and despite our proffering an alternative safe solution for participation in the audit, this was not taken forward and thus only 43% of practices signed up. GPC Wales remains committed to the principle of engagement in audit to further quality improvement (QI) activity and has engaged with the Respiratory Health Implementation Group in Wales (RHIG), RCGP Wales and NHS Wales Informatics Service (NWIS - Audit +) to enable a safe effective solution to allow practices to confidently participate.

RHIG in conjunction with their partner provider, the Institute of Clinical Science & Technology (ICST) have developed a QI platform that will link with MARS and which utilises Audit + data being captured by GP systems. The QI platform is presented in a simple digital format and enables a step-by-step process to assess and validate, in this case, the correct diagnosis and care optimisation for COPD patients on registers across Wales. It is an adaptable system that will be used for future QI analyses, which presents the data in a simple visual format that allows practices to generate and publish improvement reports if they wish. This represents a significant improvement on the data currently presented by the RCP audit, which is not linked to any QI mechanism. By using Audit+ as the vehicle by which data is extracted we are assured that the data is kept within the NWIS databanks and thus any data breach by those who receive the data will mean practices cannot be held responsible.

The QI platform provides a host of national education modules and allows a practice to calculate roughly how much nursing time will be required to complete it and the financial staff cost of same. This has been commissioned by RHIG for all of Wales and we believe this is something practices will find worth investing time to enhance the quality of their data capture / accuracy of disease registers / identify patients to focus on to get management optimised. In addition, there are sources of funding potentially available to support this work. Dr Simon Barry and colleagues at RHIG have successfully obtained a commitment from Welsh Government to allow 50% of any savings made from the respiratory medicines management (National prescribing guidelines) to be reinvested back into respiratory medicine. RHIG supports using these funds for reimbursing practice nurse time to deliver the QI process. In addition, there is the potential opportunity

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to utilise cluster funds and transformational monies as this work is designed to transform and improve respiratory management in COPD and asthma.

GPC Wales, RCGP Wales and the Respiratory Health Implementation Group are keen to encourage practices to engage with the QI platform and continue with sign up to the Audit+ system as this will mean that Wales continues to be at the forefront of quality and improvement in COPD and asthma care across the UK.

To register your interest in this exciting initiative, please visit the ICST webpage link below. Once registered you will receive further details about the programme, accessibility and launch dates.

<http://icst.info/qi-copd>

Yours sincerely,



**Dr Charlotte Jones**  
Chair, GPCW



**Dr Mair Hopkin**  
Joint Chair, RCGP

CC Dr Andrew Goodall  
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