

# Publication Summary



## Quality & Outcomes Framework (QOF) of the new GMS contract

**Achievement, prevalence  
and exception reporting data 2010/11**

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### About this Release

The Quality & Outcomes Framework (QOF) is part of the General Medical Services (GMS) contract, introduced in 2004/05. The QOF measures a general practice's achievement against a set of evidence-based indicators, with payments made to practices on the basis of their achievements. Published here are Scotland's 2010/11 QOF data for individual general practices (GP surgeries) as well as figures at Scotland, NHS Board and Community Health Partnership level. This publication is in addition to QOF data already published and available on ISD's website for the previous six years (2004/05 to 2009/10).

The data published include points achieved by each participating practice, overall and for individual QOF indicators and indicator groups, as well as crude prevalence rates for selected health conditions, drawn from QOF registers. The total QOF payment is shown for each practice with a standard GMS contract. (Approximately 87% of practices in Scotland had a GMS contract at the end of the 2010/11 QOF year). For practices with contract types other than a standard GMS one, the payment value is in some instances indicative, showing the amount that they would be paid for their QOF achievements if they were a GMS practice.

### Key Points

- The average number of points achieved by GMS practices increased from 972.2 in 2009/10 to 976.3 in 2010/11 out of a maximum of 1,000 points in each year.
- The largest increase in points achieved for a group of indicators was in the Depression indicator group which showed an increase in average achievement of 1.4 points, from 45.4 to 46.8, out of a potential achievement of 50.
- The average QOF payment to a GMS practice for 2010/11 was £132,592. This was up slightly from £130,778 in 2009/10.

## Background

A new GMS contract, implemented throughout the United Kingdom since 1st April 2004, was the product of negotiations between the British Medical Association's (BMA's) General Practitioners Committee and the NHS confederation. The new contract was introduced to support the ongoing development of primary care, and to give greater flexibility in how general practices deliver patient care, and are paid. A fundamental component of the new GMS contract is a system of financial incentives for delivering clinical and organisational quality - the Quality & Outcomes Framework (QOF).

The QOF, although fundamental to the GMS contract, is nonetheless a voluntary part of it; general practices can aspire to achieve all, part, or none of the points available in QOF. Whilst, to date, most GMS practices in Scotland have participated fully in the QOF, it is important to note that for some practices it may be impossible to achieve all the points available in the framework. For example, some of the clinical indicators relate to very specific subgroups of patients, and if the practice does not have any patients in that particular subgroup, they cannot score any points against the relevant indicator(s). This means that it is not necessarily possible for all practices to achieve a full 'score' against the QOF. Additionally, practices with section 2C or 17C agreements may choose to participate in the QOF.

The QOF measures a general practice's achievement against a scorecard of evidence-based indicators. These indicators span four domains: clinical, organisational, patient experience and additional services. In 2010/11, practices could score up to a maximum of 1,000 points across 134 indicators.

## Contact

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## Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#)

### About ISD

Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world combining high quality, consistency, national coverage and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up. Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland - and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government Health Department and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

### Official Statistics

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of 'Official Statistics'. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The Code of Practice is produced and monitored by the UK Statistics Authority which is independent of Government. Under the Code of Practice, the format, content and timing of statistics publications are the responsibility of professional staff working within ISD.

Further information on ISD's statistics, including compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and on the UK Statistics Authority, is available on the [ISD website](http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/) [www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/](http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/)