

Gateway Ref No: 06340NHS England Heads of Primary Care
CCGs with full delegationPrimary Care Commissioning
NHS England
4W56, Quarry House
Quarry Hill
Leeds
LS2 7UE

Telephone: 0113 825 1943

Email address:
david.geddes@nhs.net

13 February 2017

Dear Colleagues

RE: AUA Data Collection

We have been asked to provide a guide on how to respond to practices who have failed to achieve component 2 of the 2016/17 Avoiding Unplanned Admissions, Directed Enhanced Services (DES).

In 2015/16 the requirements of the DES underwent some changes, but despite communicating these to practices, a significant number of practices failed the various components of the DES.

As a consequence, local teams had to provide extensive support to practices in order to allow them to demonstrate their achievements under the DES. It was agreed we would allow more time for practices to achieve the components, supported by additional data extracts. Local teams wrote to practices who had not achieved the minimum requirements to provide detail on what they had failed on and what the practice needed to do in order to achieve.

Thank you for taking on this additional work, it has helped many practices to demonstrate achievements against the AUA DES requirements during what has been a transition period.

Going forward, there is an expectation that practices, having been supported to deliver the interventions and changes to achieve the AUA DES, would put in place the procedures required to ensure continued achievement. It is not expected that we will need to repeat the level of support previously offered.

The issue of how to manage the process for non-achievement in 2016/17 has been discussed by NHS England senior management and at Heads of Primary care and the following has been agreed.

- The achievement criteria as defined in the DES specification will be followed.

OFFICIAL

- The data collection in September was the final collection and if it has reported a practice failed, it would be the practice responsibility to demonstrate why it was incorrect (for example the collection was wrong).
- If the practice believes there is an error in the collection they must contact their local team and their system provider and challenge the data extract.
- The practice should be able to support their claim with evidence.
- The local commissioning team should decide if the claim is valid and if they are happy to amend practice achievement.
- Any appeal must go through the standard local appeals process.
- Local teams will not be expected to routinely correct achievement figures in CQRS where these are the result of incorrect Read-coding of patient records on practice clinical systems. Local teams will (at their discretion) amend the record in exceptional circumstances.
- There will be no additional data collections commissioned from NHS Digital.
- We will be working to the terms of the DES and would not be relaxing them, as we did last year.

In order to provide a consistent approach across NHS England it has been agreed that this will be the process and procedure that all local teams should follow.

Best wishes



Dr David Geddes
Head of Primary Care Commissioning
GMC no. 3253722