

Publications Gateway Reference 07242

Nursing Directorate
NHS England
Quarry House
Quarry Hill
Leeds
LS2 7UE

03 October 2017

To: NHS Trust Chief Executives
Cc: CCG Accountable Officers and Clinical Leads
CSU Managing Directors
Independent providers of NHS funded PROMs procedures

Dear Colleague,

National Patient Reported Outcomes Measures (PROMs)

NHS England undertook a consultation on the national PROMs programme in 2016. As a result of the findings of that consultation, NHS England has now taken the decision to discontinue the mandatory varicose vein surgery and groin-hernia surgery national PROM collections.

Along with the evidence found in the consultation, the rationale for this decision is that:

- Surgical treatment of varicose veins is currently much less frequent and the condition is usually not a major cause of patient debility;
- Groin hernia surgery is offered mainly to reduce the risk of requiring emergency surgery, rather than to relieve symptoms, which are often relatively minimal. This, along with the fact that there is no condition-specific PROM for groin-hernia surgery, means that the existing PROM has limited value.

As these PROMs are perceived to be delivering limited value, we are removing the burden on organisations of continuing to collect this data.

NHS England will continue with hip and knee surgery PROM collections and are working with NHS Digital to make the national data on them easier to use and to provide a range of automated outputs that are tailored to the needs of trusts, CCGs and other users.

[The full consultation document has now been published.](#)

The mandatory varicose vein surgery and groin-hernia surgery national PROM collections ended on 1 October 2017.

- Providers will no longer be required to offer Q1 questionnaires to patients undergoing these procedures from this date.
- Patients who have already completed a Q1 questionnaire prior to 1 October 2017, should be sent a Q2 questionnaire to complete in the normal way.

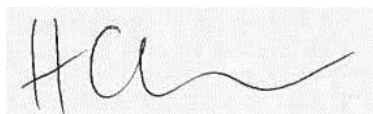
Patients who complete a Q1 and a Q2 questionnaire relating to a procedure which took place prior to 1 October 2017 will be included in the national data set.

- The final annual data publication for the full year 2016/17 data will take place in February 2018.
- The final annual data publication for the half year 2017/18 data will take place in May 2018.

Providers who wish to continue varicose vein surgery and groin-hernia surgery local PROM collections are able to do so and should make arrangements with their supplier. NHS Digital will continue to process and return the data for local use, but this will not form part of any future published PROMs national data.

If you have any queries about this, please email england.proms@nhs.net.

Yours faithfully



Clare Enston
Acting Head of Insight & Feedback, NHS England

TIMETABLE

Date	Action
April 2017 – September 2017	Q1s are collected from all Varicose Vein and Groin Hernia surgery patients
30 September 2017	Mandatory Q1 collections for Varicose Vein and Groin Hernia surgery patients cease
July 2017 – December 2017	Q2s are sent out to all Varicose Vein and Groin Hernia surgery patients who have completed a Q1
July 2017 – March 2018	Q2s are received by NHS Digital
February 2018	Final 2016/17 data for Varicose Vein and Groin Hernia surgery published by NHS Digital
May 2018	Final 2017/18 data for Varicose Vein and Groin Hernia surgery published by NHS Digital