

To: • All GP Practices

cc. • Primary Care Network Clinical Directors

- Integrated Care Boards:
 - Chief Medical Officers
 - Primary Care Directors
 - Chief Information Officers
- Primary Care and Community Services National Team

NHS England
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London
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7 November 2023

Dear Colleagues,

General practice and the use of CVDPREVENT audit data for purposes of the National Obesity Audit

We would appreciate your support in communicating the following information to colleagues in general practice.

The new National Obesity Audit (NOA) supports NHS England's Long Term Plan commitment to build an evidence base for interventions for people who are overweight and living with obesity. For it to be successful, we require a link to primary care patient level data which will enable critical analysis of longitudinal weight change and improvement aims.

To avoid creating a new audit and any additional burden on general practice, NHS England is reusing existing information from general practice to support the NOA. We are looking to the CVDPREVENT (CVDP) audit to provide us with the relevant data.

A data provision notice will be issued on 7 November 2023 to kindly request that all general practices 'opt in' and approve reuse of CVDP data via the Calculating Quality Reporting Service (CQRS). General practice participation is critical to help to improve services for patients with overweight and obesity.

Further information about the NOA, the use of CVDPREVENT data and what it means for general practice, can be found in Appendix A.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Fuller'.

Dr Claire Fuller MBBS DRCOG MRCGP
Medical Director for Primary Care
NHS England

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Powis'.

Professor Sir Stephen Powis
National Medical Director
NHS England

Appendix A: Supporting information for use of CVDPREVENT data for the purposes of the national obesity audit

Background

More than one in four adults are currently living with obesity. We know obesity puts people at greater risk of many serious diseases and increases their chances of associated comorbidities e.g., cancers, cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes.

What is the National Obesity Audit?

NHS England has established a National Obesity Audit (NOA) to bring together comparable data from the different types of weight management services across England. For the NOA to be successful, linking to primary care patient-level data is a critical part of the project to enable analysis of longitudinal weight change, to inform improvement aims.

How will the NOA benefit patients?

By linking to GP patient level data with weight management service data, the NOA will provide information across the weight management pathway to support quality improvements to patient care. For example, equity of access, improving outcomes of weight management services, reducing obesity related comorbidities, and improving population health.

Why are we using CVDPREVENT data for the NOA?

The NOA will re-use certain information from the existing CVDPREVENT General Practice Extraction Service data flow for new NOA analysis, linkage, and reporting purposes (see the link to 'NOA Dataset Specification' for further details).

NHS England has explored several ways in which the NOA could link with patient level data. The data collected within the CVDPREVENT audit has natural alignment as it already collects much of the data required for the NOA.

How will this approach benefit general practice?

By using CVDPREVENT data, the creation of a new data collection can be avoided, which in turn reduces additional burden to colleagues in primary care. Whilst CVDPREVENT will give us limited data about a certain cohort of people with/at high risk of CVD, it will provide important initial understanding that can be built upon later.

What is the additional ask of general practice?

A burden analysis has been conducted to identify any additional workload and costs to practices of opting in. This identified that it would take each practice 4 minutes to log on to the system and tick a box to opt in (a cost of £1.89 per practice, which is equal to a total one-off cost for all practices of circa £12,000).

How can general practice help?

All GPs on the Care Quality Commission primary care list will receive an email from the Calculating Quality Reporting Service (CQRS) requesting their agreement to take part in the NOA. Users will be asked to log in to CQRS and tick the relevant box on the participation page. General practice participation will be a critical factor in helping to improve services for patients with overweight and obesity.

We thank you in advance for your support.

Further information

- [General information about the National Obesity Audit](#)
- [Latest publication of the National Obesity Audit dashboard](#)
- [NOA Dataset Specification](#)
- For further enquiries regarding the NOA please email: obesity.audit@nhs.net