

BMA

QOF (Quality and Outcomes Framework) 2020/21 Refocus: summary of changes

This document is a brief summary of changes announced by NHSEI, in consultation with GPC England, for QOF for the remainder of 2021/22. Full guidance is available [here](#). In light of COVID-19, QOF has been refocused to:

- support practices to reprioritise aspects of care not related to COVID-19
- serve those patients most in need of long-term condition management support
- guarantee significant income protection and the relaxing of some requirements for practices.

There are 567 points available in 2020/21 (compared to 559 in 2019/20), valued at £194.83 per point.

QOF 2020-21 COVID-19 adjustments

Practices should continue to prioritise care that is clinically necessary, relevant and possible. It should be delivered primarily by phone or virtually, or by face to face consultation (with appropriate PPE) where required.

	2020-21 agreement	COVID adjustment	Notes
Income-protected indicators	339	310	Protected
Quality improvement	74	74	Simplified
Immunisations and screening	29	58	Modified
Disease registers	81	81	No change
Prescribing indicators	44	44	No change
<i>Total</i>	<i>567</i>	<i>567</i>	<i>No change</i>

Income-protected indicators (310 pts) – Other than areas outlined below, indicators will be subject to income protection. For these indicators, practices will be credited with points based on historical achievement (2018/19) but should nonetheless make efforts to deliver against these indicators as clinically appropriate. Practices will need to decide their approach to patient prioritisation and service delivery with their CCG during Oct-Nov 2020.

Quality improvement (74 pts) – These indicators have been simplified to focus upon a set of national actions in the agreed topic areas of learning disability and early cancer diagnosis. This in order to support and contribute to the delivery of these services, rather than wider QI activities. It will enable practices to learn from the experience of others within their PCN. Peer network support for delivery and sharing of best practice will need to continue to be provided by the PCN.

Immunisation and screening (58 pts) – The points allocated to flu vaccination and cervical screening are doubled in 2020/21. This is to highlight the priority placed on the delivery of these services and the renewed focus upon flu vaccination as part of NHS England's COVID-19 plans.

It has been agreed that the points for these two domains will be weighted differently to the usual QOF processes, whilst the thresholds remain the same. Practices will accrue a higher number of points at the lower achievement threshold, with the remaining points being achieved in a linear manner between the upper and lower threshold.

Disease registers (81 pts) – Points associated with maintaining accurate disease registers in QOF will be conditional on the ongoing maintenance of registers and associated disease prevalence.

Prescribing named medications (44 pts) – Eight indicators optimising pharmacological management of patients with specific conditions and the prescribing of specified medications will remain conditional upon performance.