



Indicator No Longer in QOF (INLIQ) information 2018/19

Summary

- There are 14 clinical indicators that are relevant to CVD which have been removed from the Qualities and Outcome Framework (QOF) in 2013/14 and 2014/15.
- The coverage and treatment level/achievement figures for these indicators no longer included in QOF (INLIQ) is now in its fifth year of reporting.
- In 2018/19 approximately 68% of practices submitted INLIQ information. This is lower than 2017/18 (78%) and 2016/17 (78%).
- For the CVD related INLIQ between the final year when the indicators were included in QOF and the first year that they were removed there was a decrease in treatment level/achievement at England level, in some cases there was a substantial decrease. NHS Digital advise against comparing the QOF and INLIQ findings due to different collection mechanisms.
- Between 2014/15 and 2015/16 the change in treatment levels/achievement was more variable. Some of the indicators with the greatest fall in achievement are directly related to the public health prevention agenda.
- There has been a change in the practices that report the INLIQ figures, 1,708 practices that submitted in 2017/18 didn't submit in 2018/19, and a further 662 new practices that hadn't submitted in 2017/18 did go on to submit in 2018/19.
- Analysis of 2017/18 INLIQ data suggests that the practices that did submit INLIQ in 2018/19 (appendix 1) had slightly higher treatment/achievement levels than those practices who did not go on to submit in 2018/19.
- It is possible that this reporting bias may account for some of the increase in treatment levels/achievement between 2017/18 and 2018/19.
- The change in achievement/treatment levels of the INLIQ between 2017/18 and 2018/19 are summarised below:
 - The treatment levels in the high blood pressure related indicators have increased slightly (except for CKD004).
 - The cholesterol testing and treatment related measures have had a slight increase in achievement.
 - The albumin:creatinine ratio testing indicators have undergone a slight increase in treatment levels.
 - The treatment levels for indicators relating to lifestyle interventions (HYP004, HYP005, CVDPP002) have reduced or remained roughly the same.

Background

In 2014/15 and 2015/16 several CVD related indicators were retired from the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF). The indicators are referred to as Indicators No Longer In QOF (INLIQ). Despite no longer being included in the QOF, NHS Digital collected and published data on the coverage and achievement of practices for these indicators and the GP contract 2017/18 recommended the continuation of this INLIQ data collection.

The INLIQ data collection is an experimental statistic. This paper describes the trend in the coverage and treatment levels of 14 CVD related indicators from the last year they were in QOF to the most recent INLIQ year 2018/19 published in August 2019. There are differences in the data collection for the INLIQ indicators which make comparison with previous years QOF treatment outcome data invalid.

INLIQ data coverage

Currently NHS Digital publish the INLIQ at practice level. PHE undertake analysis to amalgamate practice treatment values to CCG and to generate estimates of CCG level treatment levels and population coverage. The coverage figures use the CCG population who are registered to practices which submit to QOF as a denominator.

Not all practices submitted INLIQ information to NHS Digital in 2018/19. Data was collected by 68% of practices, this is less than the INLIQ return in 2017/18. The reasons why data collection was not possible are outlined in table 1 below. It is not yet possible to assess CCG level coverage until 2018/19 QOF figures are released (table 2).

Of the practices that submitted INLIQ in 2017/18 1,708 did not do so in 2018/19. There may be several reasons for this. The practices may have allocated new practice codes due to merger, some may have closed, or they may have opted out of the return. Conversely there were a further 662 practices that did not submit INLIQ in 2017/18 but did so in 2018/19. The reasons for this could be allocation of new codes due to merger, new practices opening or practices opting into the collection. This should be seen in the context of a reduction in the total number of active practices of 520 practices in the year.

Table 1. INLIQ data practice coverage 2014/15 and 2018/19 and reasons for non-participation

Coverage Table	2014/15		2015/16		2016/17		2017/18		2018/19	
	Practices (number)	Proportion (%) of Active Practices	Practices (number)	Proportion (%) of Active Practices	Practices (number)	Proportion (%) of Active Practices	Practices (number)	Proportion (%) of Active Practices	Practices (number)	Proportion (%) of Active Practices
Active practices in England*	7,899	100	7,939	100	7,747	100	7,747	100	7,227	100
Extract cohort	6,517	82.6	6,421	80.9	6,357	82.1	6,182	79.8	4,991	69.1
Data collected	4,185	53.1	6,275	79.0	6,070	78.4	6,023	77.7	4,929	68.2
Other extracted	43	0.5	0	-	0	-	2	0.0	50	0.7
Collection not possible / practice did not opt in	1,372	17.4	1,518	19.1	1,390	17.9	1,565	20.2	2,236	30.9
Collection not successful	2,332	29.6	146	1.8	287	3.7	159	2.1	62	0.9

Source: INLIQ NHS Digital * Active practices in England consists of all practices which were active at any point during the service period (1 April to 31 March of given year).

Table 2. INLIQ National and CCG level coverage 2014/15 to 2018/19

Date	Number of active practices	National INLIQ coverage	No. CCGs with 100% coverage (%)*	No. CCGs with 0% coverage (%)*
2014/15	7,899	52-54%	15 (7.1)	23 (11)
2015/16	7,939	79%	29 (13.9)	6 (2.9)
2016/17	7,747	78%	17 (8.2)	13 (6.3)
2017/18	7,747	78%	39 (20)	29 (14.8)
2018/19	7,227	68%	**	**

Source: INLIQ and QOF NHS Digital *represents the % practice coverage for the CCG using the practices that submit QOF data as a denominator **unable to calculate until the 2018/19 QOF release, as QOF returning practices are the denominator

INLIQ achievement/treatment level figures

Tables 3, 4, 5 and 6 show the achievement figures for the indicators from the last year they were included in QOF until 2018/19. For this analysis the exceptions are included in the QOF denominators. Please note that NHS Digital advise against comparing the QOF and INLIQ findings due to different collection mechanisms. The last mandated QOF return for each of the indicators is shown in red.

Table 3. England level analysis 2013/14 to 2018/19 blood pressure related indicators removed from QOF

	Overall 2013/14 QOF % achievement not comparable with INLIQ years	2014/15 INLIQ/(QOF for CKD) % achievement	2015/16 INLIQ % achievement	2016/17 INLIQ % achievement	2017/18 INLIQ % achievement (CIs)	2018/19 INLIQ % achievement (CIs)
HYP003 the percentage of patients aged 79 or under with hypertension in whom the last recorded blood pressure reading (measured in the preceding 9 months) is 140/90 mmHg or less	70.4	59.0	56.7*	56.8*	55.7 (55.7-55.8)	56.6 (56.5-56.6)
CKD002 the percentage of patients on the CKD register in whom the last blood pressure reading (measured in the preceding 12 months) is 140/85 mmHg or less		74.4	67.1	66.5	65.5 (65.4-65.6)	66.3 (66.3-66.4)
CKD003/NM84 the percentage of patients on the CKD register with hypertension and proteinuria who are currently treated with renin-angiotensin system antagonists		76.4	74.1*	72.0*	70.5 (70.3-70.8)	67.4 (67.2-67.7)

Source: QOF and INLIQ NHS Digital * these figures differ from the NHS Digital published figures due to a differing exception numbers in the published figures. Red values represent the last year the indicator was included in QOF, these values should not be directly compared with INLIQ values.

Table 4. England level analysis 2013/14 to 2018/19 CVD and cholesterol related indicators removed from QOF

	Overall 2013/14 QOF achievement % not comparable with INLIQ years	2014/15 INLIQ % achievement	2015/16 INLIQ % achievement	2016/17 INLIQ % achievement	2017/18 % INLIQ achievement (CIs)	2018/19 % INLIQ achievement (CIs)
STIA004 the percentage of patients with stroke or TIA who have a record of total cholesterol in the preceding 12 months	84.5	65.6	66.4	66.5	65.5 (65.4-65.6)	67.0 (66.9-67.1)
STIA005 the percentage of patients with a stroke shown to be non-haemorrhagic, or a history of TIA whose last measured total cholesterol (measured in the preceding 12 months) is 5 mmol/l or less	68.4	53.2	53.5*	53.3*	52.8 (52.7-52.9)	55.5 (55.4-55.7)
CHD003 the percentage of patients with coronary heart disease whose last measured total cholesterol (measured in the preceding 12 months) is 5 mmol/l or less	73.2	62.1	62.2	61.9	61.5 (61.4-61.6)	63.7 (63.6-63.8)
PAD003 the percentage of patients with peripheral arterial disease in whom the last measured total cholesterol (measured in the preceding 12 months) is 5 mmol/l or less	69.4	56.3	56.6	56.2	55.9 (55.8-56.1)	58.2 (58.1-58.4)

Source: QOF and INLIQ NHS Digital * these figures differ from the NHS Digital published figures due to a differing exception numbers in the published figures. Red values represent the last year the indicator was included in QOF, these values should not be directly compared with INLIQ values.

Table 5. England level analysis 2013/14 to 2018/19 Albumin:creatinine ratio testing indicators removed from QOF

	Overall 2013/14 QOF % achievement not comparable with INLIQ years	2014/15 INLIQ/(QOF for CKD) % achievement	2015/16 INLIQ % achievement	2016/17 INLIQ % achievement	2017/18 INLIQ % achievement (CIs)	2018/19 INLIQ % achievement (CIs)
CKD004 the percentage of patients on the CKD register whose notes have a record of a urine:creatinine ratio (or protein:creatinine ratio) test in the preceding 12 months		75.4	40.2	38.3	37.2 (37.1-37.3)	39.4 (39.3-39.4)
DM005 the percentage of patients with diabetes, on the register, who have a record of an albumin:creatinine ratio test in the preceding 12 months	80.6	62.1	58.3	59.1	59.0 (58.9-59)	63.1 (63.0-63.1)

Source: QOF and INLIQ NHS Digital * these figures differ from the NHS Digital published figures due to a differing exception numbers in the published figures. Red values represent the last year the indicator was included in QOF, these values should not be directly compared with INLIQ values.

Table 6. England level analysis 2013/14 to 2018/19 CVD and lifestyle intervention related indicators removed from QOF

	Overall 2013/14 QOF % achievement not comparable with INLIQ years	2014/15 INLIQ % achievement	2015/16 INLIQ % achievement	2016/17 INLIQ % achievement	2017/18 INLIQ % achievement (CIs)	2018/19 INLIQ % achievement (CIs)
HYP004 the percentage of patients with hypertension aged 16 or over and who have not yet attained the age of 75 in whom there is an assessment of physical activity, using GPPAQ, in the preceding 12 months	76.0	12.1	9.0*	8.3*	7.4 (7.4-7.4)	7.9 (7.8-7.9)
HYP005 the percentage of patients with hypertension aged 16 or over and who have not yet attained the age of 75 who score 'less than active' on GPPAQ in the preceding 12 months, who also have a record of a brief intervention in the preceding 12 months	86.3	66.4	49.6*	44.4*	40.1 (40.0-40.3)	36.7 (36.5-36.9)
CVDPP002 the percentage of patients diagnosed with hypertension (diagnosed on or after 1 April 2009) who are given lifestyle advice in the preceding 12 months for: smoking cessation, safe alcohol consumption and healthy diet.	79.0	21.3	17.5	15.8	14.1 (14.0-14.1)	13.8 (13.8-13.9)

Source: QOF and INLIQ NHS Digital * these figures differ from the NHS Digital published figures due to a differing exception numbers in the published figures. Red values represent the last year the indicator was included in QOF, these values should not be directly compared with INLIQ values.

Table 7. England level analysis 2013/14 to 2018/19 miscellaneous CVD related indicators removed from QOF

	Overall 2013/14 QOF % achievement not comparable with INLIQ years	2014/15 INLIQ/ % achievement	2015/16 INLIQ % achievement	2016/17 INLIQ % achievement	2017/18 INLIQ % achievement (CIs)	2018/19 INLIQ % achievement (CIs)
DM011 the percentage of patients with diabetes, on the register, who have a record of retinal screening in the preceding 12 months	82.6	72.5	69.0	69.8	68.1 (68.0-68.1)	72.2 (72.1-72.2)
DM016 the percentage of male patients with diabetes, on the register, who have a record of erectile dysfunction with a record of advice and assessment of contributory factors and treatment options in the preceding 12 months	87.9	52.9	41.7*	34.4*	32.1 (31.8-32.5)	30.3 (29.9-30.7)

Source: QOF and INLIQ NHS Digital * these figures differ from the NHS Digital published figures due to a differing exception numbers in the published figures. Red values represent the last year the indicator was included in QOF, these values should not be directly compared with INLIQ values.

Appendix1 Retrospective subset analysis of INLIQ treatment levels of practices that submitted INLIQ in 2017/18

Two separate subsets of practices that submitted INLIQ data in 2017/18 were identified depending on whether they went on to return INLIQ information in 2018/19 or not. The 2017/18 achievement/treatment levels of these subsets of practices was compared to see if there were any differences between the subsets. The findings are shown in table 8 below.

Table 8 Subset analysis of the 2017/18 INLIQ, comparing the achievement of practices that did and did not submit INLIQ in 2018/19

Indicator	Practices submitting in 2017/18 and 2018/19		Practices submitting in 2017/18 but not 2018/19		Significantly different
	% (%CIs)	n	% (%CIs)	n	
HYP003	55.8 (55.7-55.8)	3,972,795	55.6 (55.5-55.7)	1,451,445	No
CKD002	65.7 (65.6-65.8)	1,166,567	65.0 (64.9-65.2)	426,801	Yes
NM84/CKD003	70.6 (70.4-70.9)	96,652	70.2 (69.8-70.7)	33,628	No
STIA004	65.7 (65.6-65.8)	637,705	65.0 (64.8-65.2)	225,503	Yes
STIA005	53.0 (52.9-53.2)	422,031	52.1 (51.9-52.4)	148,997	Yes
CHD003	61.7 (61.6-61.8)	1,123,535	61.0 (60.8-61.1)	403,054	Yes
PAD003	56.1 (55.9-56.3)	209,720	55.5 (55.1-55.8)	77,056	Yes
CKD004	37.6 (37.5-37.7)	1,166,567	36.2 (36-36.3)	426,801	Yes
DM005	59.6 (59.6-59.7)	1,984,194	57.2 (57.1-57.3)	732,876	Yes
HYP004	7.4 (7.4-7.4)	3,347,596	7.3 (7.2-7.3)	1,227,515	Yes
HYP005	38.6 (38.4-38.9)	192,096	44.5 (44.1-44.9)	66,522	Yes
CVDPP002	13.7 (13.6-13.7)	1,695,187	15.1 (15.0-15.2)	625,687	Yes
DM011	68.5 (68.4-68.5)	1,984,194	67.0 (66.9-67.1)	732,876	Yes
DM016	33.1 (32.7-33.5)	47,635	29.4 (28.7-30.1)	16,727	Yes

Data sources

NHS Digital INLIQ. Publication date: 29th August 2019: <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/gp-contract-services/2018-19/gpprac1819>

NHS Digital QOF <http://content.digital.nhs.uk/qof>