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Quality scores in 1998 and 2003 (items in italics represent conditional indicators, i.e. ones which did not necessarily apply to all patients)

**Coronary heart disease (1998 sample =737 patients, 2003 sample =487 patients)**

Indicator; recording of...	Score in 1998 (%)	Score in 2003 (%)	Change in scores 1998 to 2003 (95% CI)	Significance of change in scores (p-value)	Improvement in scores as a percentage of maximum possible improvement	Number of patients (1998)	Number of patients (2003)
Frequency or pattern of angina attacks (last 15 months) **	43.3	60.8	17.5 (9.4 – 25.6)	<0.001	30.9	726	487
Blood pressure (last 15 months) **	87.0	91.0	4.0 (-5.1 – 8.5)	0.082	30.8	736	487
Exercise capacity (last 15 months) **	36.8	66.9	30.2 (21.2 – 39.1)	<0.001	47.7	734	487
Prescribed or advised to take aspirin unless record of contraindication or intolerance	76.1	75.2	-1.0 (-5.6 – 3.6)	0.687	-4.1	733	487
<i>Prescribed beta-blocker as maintenance therapy if sole therapy</i>	52.02	59.1	7.1 (-4.3 – 18.5)	0.224	14.8	173	154
<i>Action taken on blood pressure if systolic blood pressure &gt; 160, or &gt; 140 if cholesterol level &gt; 5.5 mmol/l (last 15 months) **</i>	37.0	57.7	20.7 (6.0-35.4)	0.006	32.8	100	52
Cholesterol (last 5 years)	63.0	89.3	26.3 (19.7 – 32.9)	<0.001	71.1	735	487
Dietary advice (last 5 years)	59.4	76.6	17.2 (7.3 – 27.1)	0.001	42.4	721	487
Smoking status (last 5 years)	85.6	87.1	1.5	0.662	10.1	736	487

<i>Smoking advice to smokers</i> (last 5 years)	61.8	77.3	(-5.1 – 8.0)										
<i>Weight advice if overweight</i> (last 5 years)	61.9	78.4	(5.3 – 27.6)	16.5	0.042	40.6	157	75					
<i>Action if cholesterol &gt;5.5 mmol/l (age &lt;70) (most recent recording in last 5 years)</i>	56.7	71.7	(0.1 – 30.0)	15.0	0.048	34.6	120	46					
Ever referred to specialist or for exercise ECG	75.3	87.9	(7.4 – 17.8)	12.6	<0.001	51.1	736	487					
BP level <150/90 (average of last 3 recordings over last 15 months)	47.3	72.2	(18.9 – 31.0)	24.9	<0.001	47.3	734	464					
Cholesterol level (NSF <5) (most recent recording in last 5 years)	17.6	61.4	(37.0 – 50.7)	43.8	<0.001	53.2	735	435					

**Asthma (1998 sample = 786 patients; 2003 sample = 504 patients)**

<b>Indicator; recording of...</b>	Score in 1998 (%)	Score in 2003 (%)	Change 1998 to 2003 (95% CI)	Significance of change in scores	Improvement in scores as a percentage of maximum possible improvement	Number of patients (1998)	Number of patients (2003)
Record of daily, nocturnal or activity limiting symptoms (last 15 months) **	43.6	57.7	14.2 (5.0-23.3)	0.002	25.1	780	504
Normal/ predicted peak flow or record of difficulty using meter (last 5 years)	77.3	85.7	8.4 (2.7 – 14.2)	0.004	37.1	783	504
Smoking status (last 5 years)	82.3	84.3	2.1 (-4.7 – 8.9)	0.550	11.7	783	504
Inhaler technique (last 5 years)	53.6	58.7	5.1 (-4.4 – 14.7)	0.292	11.1	763	504
<i>Smoking advice to smokers</i>	59.8	86.9	27.1	<0.001	67.4	174	122

(last 5 years)					16.5 – 37.7)							
<i>Self-management plan for those on high dose steroids or who have had in-patient treatment for asthma (last 5 years)</i>	34.4	50.8	16.4 (-1.5 – 34.2)	0.072	24.9	151	63					
<i>For patients with recorded exercise induced bronchospasm, short-acting bronchodilators prescribed for use before exercise (last 5 years)</i>	35.5	84.9	49.4 (30.3 – 68.5)	<0.001	76.5	141	66					
<i>Speech rate/pulse/respiratory rate during consultation for exacerbation of asthma if immediate bronchodilator therapy was used (most recent in last 5 years) *</i>	100.0	45.7	-54.3			10	35					
<i>Peak flow during a consultation for an exacerbation (most recent in last 5 years)</i>	71.7	69.7	-2.0 (-15.3 – 11.3)	0.769	-7.0	254	89					
<i>Oral steroids prescribed if peak flow &lt;60% of normal (most recent in last 5 years) *</i>	88.5	90.9	2.5			52	11					
<i>Action taken if patient experiencing nocturnal symptoms (most recent in last 5 years)</i>	63.0	71.6	8.6 (-5.9 – 23.0)	0.246	23.1	200	116					
<i>Action taken if patient experiencing activity limiting symptoms (most recent in last 5 years)</i>	52.6	70.8	18.1 (-2.7 – 39.0)	0.088	38.3	114	65					
<i>Referral to a respiratory physician where oral steroids</i>	47.8	57.1	9.3			23	7					

<i>are used in maintenance treatment (last 5 years) *</i>										
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**Type 2 diabetes (1998 sample = 777 patients; 2003 sample = 504 patients)**

Indicator; recording of...	Score in 1998 (%)	Score in 2003 (%)	Change 1998 to 2003 (95% CI)	Significance of change in scores	Improvement in scores as a percentage of maximum possible improvement	Number of patients (1998)	Number of patients (2003)
<b>HbA1c (last 15 months) **</b>	87.6	92.7	5.1 (1.0 – 9.1)	0.014	40.8	775	504
Visual examination of the feet (last 15 months) **	61.5	69.6	8.1 (-0.06 – 16.8)	0.066	21.1	774	504
Peripheral pulses or record of vibration sense (last 15 months) **	58.8	62.7	3.9 (-7.0 – 14.8)	0.482	9.5	774	504
Serum creatinine (last 15 months) **	79.8	89.5	9.7 (4.5 – 14.9)	<0.001	48.0	776	504
Urine proteinuria (last 15 months) **	67.7	74.6	6.9 (-0.4 – 14.2)	0.064	21.4	771	504
Examination of fundi or visual acuity (last 15 months) **	70.8	71.8	1.1 (-5.6 – 7.7)	0.754	3.7	773	504
Weight (last 15 months) **	80.5	86.5	6.0 (0.3 – 11.7)	0.039	30.7	775	504
Blood pressure (last 15 months) **	92.8	94.6	1.9 (-1.6 – 5.3)	0.285	25.8	776	504
<i>Hypoglycaemia symptoms if on sulphonylurea (last 15 months) **</i>	18.4	8.0	-10.4 (-16.9 – -3.8)	0.002	-12.7	571	311
Smoking status (last 5 years)	87.0	88.5	1.5 (-4.2 – 7.2)	0.615	11.3	771	504
Serum cholesterol (last 5 years)	74.9	97.6	22.8 (16.5 – 29.0)	<0.001	90.5	776	504
<i>Documentation of education if</i>	82.3	86.4	4.1	0.467	23.2	254	249

Indicator; recording of...	Score in 1998 (%)	Score in 2003 (%)	Change 1998 to 2003 (95% CI)	Significance of change in scores	Improvement in scores as a percentage of maximum possible improvement	Number of patients (1998)	Number of patients (2003)
<b>Indicator; recording of...</b> diagnosed <5 years (last 5 years)			(-6.9 – 15.0)				
Advice given to smokers (last 5 years)	66.9	77.2	10.3 (-6.4 – 27.0)	0.226	31.1	133	79
Under 80 years: Offered treatment if average of last 3 readings shows diastolic >100 or systolic >150 and diastolic >90 (last 15 months) *	63.6	81.8	18.2			66	33
Referral to a specialist where creatinine is >200 mmol/l (last 15 months) *	76.9	100.0	23.1			13	3
If patient is being treated for hypertension and has proteinuria (macro- but not micro-albuminuria), the patient is on an ACE inhibitor*	53.1	57.1	4.0			367	7
If patient was started on ACE inhibitor, creatinine and potassium were measured within 1 month of starting treatment (anytime in last 5 years)	37.4	32.1	-5.3 (-18.4 – 7.8)	0.427	-8.5	198	184
For patients under 70, where the last HbA1c was >9, patient offered a therapeutic intervention to improve glycaemic control (last 15 months)	73.0	71.6	-1.4 (-13.7 – 10.9)	0.823	-5.2	100	81

Indicator; recording of...	Score in 1998 (%)	Score in 2003 (%)	Change 1998 to 2003 (95% CI)	Significance of change in scores	Improvement in scores as a percentage of maximum possible improvement	Number of patients (1998)	Number of patients (2003)
<b>Indicator; recording of...</b> <i>For patients over 70, where the last HbA1c was &gt; 10, patient offered a therapeutic intervention to improve glycaemic control (last 15 months) *</i>	77.3	60.0				22	5
BP level < 140/85 (average of last 3 recordings over last 15 months)	21.8	35.8	14.0 (8.3 – 19.8)	<0.001	17.9	776	483
Cholesterol level <5 (last 15 months)	21.5	52.0	30.5 (25.4 – 35.7)	<0.001	38.9	777	492
HbA1c level <7.4 (last 15 months)	37.9	39.7	1.8 (-5.1 – 8.6)	0.622	2.9	775	469

\* Statistical tests were not carried out on variables if there was a mean of less than one case per practice where the indicator was triggered.

\*\* Data adjusted for the fact that 'in the past year' was interpreted as a record of the clinical feature in the previous 14 months in 1998 (in line with the review criteria proposed by expert panels<sup>18</sup>), and a record in the previous 15 months in 2003 in line with the 2004 GMS contract.