

16 January 2013

Gateway number: **18626**

Dear Colleague,

New arrangements for the collection and reporting of Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) data: Update

I wrote last year to outline the new arrangements for the collection and reporting of Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) data which would apply from 1 October 2012. The letter of 2 July 2012 refers:

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/07/proms-collection-reporting/>

I would like to thank Providers' PROMs Executive Leads for their contribution to the successful implementation of the new arrangements. Over 300 separate provider organisations were involved in mini-competitions for PROMs services and all providers have arrangements now in place.

As set out in my letter of 2 July, the new arrangements permit greater access to the PROMs data locally. The Framework Suppliers which you have appointed will now submit data to the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) through a new PROMs Clearing House service. Clinical teams at each provider, including your own, can use this to access their PROMs data. This can be done by simply registering with HSCIC's Secure Electronic File Transfer service: known as "SEFT". Many already have and I hope others will follow suit. The service is free of charge and the data is useful for both informing clinical teams of how patients view their outcomes and to drive continued improvements in services. Therefore, I urge all PROMs Executive Leads to draw these facilities to the attention of their appropriate clinical teams in order to ensure widespread usage. Registration details can be found in the attached annex.

Yours sincerely



Bob Ricketts CBE
Director of NHS Provider Transition

Annex: Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMS) Provider Extracts – Communications to Providers

The Department of Health and Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) has made patient level PROMs questionnaire information and associated Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) eligible episodes available to providers of NHS healthcare.

This is on an opt-in basis for registered and approved users and will be free of charge.

What information is in the extracts?

Provider Extracts contain patient level information, including patient identifiers, for both PROMs questionnaires and HES eligible episodes for the following procedures:

- Total hip replacements
- Total knee replacements
- Groin hernia treatment
- Varicose vein treatment

PROMs questionnaire information is included in extracts for the providers that either issued the PROMs questionnaire to the patient or performed the procedure.

Eligible HES episodes are included in extracts for the providers that performed the procedure only.

The extracts include all PROMs questionnaire data and HES eligible episodes until the point at which they are finalised for publication purposes. The finalised records are included in the monthly extract that aligns with the final publication but will not be included in any subsequent extracts.

PROMs Questionnaire information is to be included only where the patient has explicitly consented for their information to be shared with their healthcare professionals. **As a result extracts only contain both pre- and post-operative PROMs questionnaires used from August 2011**, which included the updated consent model.

Extracts do not include any information for patients that have not consented for their information to be shared with their healthcare professionals, have withdrawn consent or where patient consent has expired.

When will the extracts be available?

Provider extracts have been available for download since mid-August 2012.

They are updated on a monthly basis and made available to download in line with the monthly HSCIC national PROMs Publication release:

<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/publications-calendar/april-2011--march-2012>

Who can access the extracts?

For information governance reasons only one nominated employee of each provider will be granted access to download their PROMs extracts. They will need to register with the HSCIC and will need to confirm that their Caldicott Guardian has approved their access to the PROMS data and that they agree to only use data included in the extracts in line with agreed restrictions. The questionnaire consent model allows the consultant in charge of the patient's care to share patient identifiable data with members of the team but not with staff who are not directly involved in the care of the patient.

Accessing the extracts

Providers will need to register with the HSCIC before accessing their PROMs extracts.

Once a provider has registered, the extracts will be available for download from the HSCIC's Secure Electronic File Transfer (SEFT) service. The file will be in comma separated variable (CSV) format. Extracts can be securely accessed via a web browser but will require a runtime version of Java installed on the machine used for downloads.

Due to Information Governance requirements, PROMs can only be accessed by an individual who has been nominated by the Caldicott Guardian. This individual must register for SEFT specifically to access PROMs.

Registration and Further Information and Support

To register for access to PROMs Provider Extracts or for further information and support relating to PROMS, please contact the HSCIC:

Email: enquiries@ic.nhs.uk (please include 'PROMS Provider Access' in the subject line)

Telephone: **0845 300 6016**.

Depending on demand the registration process may take a few weeks, so we recommend providers that have an interest in receiving these data register at their earliest convenience.