

Professor Steve Field CBE FRCP FFPH FRCGP
Chief Inspector of General Practice
Care Quality Commission
Citygate
Gallowgate
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 4PA

17th February 2017

Dear Steve,

GP Insight

In light of recent correspondence between the BMA and the CQC I would like to formally raise on behalf of the GPC Executive our significant objections with the current proposals from CQC to make greater use of intelligence in the way it regulates general practice.

As you will be aware, my colleague Mark Sandford-Wood and I met with you in November to discuss the development of 'GP Insight' and identified a number of fundamental flaws with the planned approach CQC was taking. Through recent communications between the CQC and the BMA it is clear that the genuine problems we highlighted have not been addressed, namely that:

- despite the provision or statements that the data within the reports will not constitute regulatory judgements on performance, their publication on the CQC website and linked to some of the CQC's key questions (e.g. effective, caring) will inevitably be interpreted that way by practices, and more importantly by patients and the wider media.
- the provision of context from practices about the data provided is vital, yet this is not catered for in the proposed methodology.
- the use of z-scores and benchmarking against local and national averages will give a skewed impression of achievement by the profession with half of practices being denoted below average.
- the parameters used in GP Insight are likely to represent a form of informal Quality and Outcomes Framework at a time when this has been scaled back by common consent.

I understand that similar concerns have been put forward in representations made to the CQC by the Royal College of General Practitioners.

With this in mind I would urge you to halt any plans to distribute GP Insight reports to practices in their current form and ask that you reconsider the overall approach to the use and publication of general practice data that can so easily be misinterpreted.

Chief executive: Keith Ward

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I hope that you will give this request serious and immediate attention and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chaand Nagpaul'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C' and 'N'.

Dr Chaand Nagpaul CBE
Chair, BMA General Practitioners Committee