

Care Quality Commission

Inspection Evidence Table

Netherton Practice (1-4953968978)

Inspection date: 11 December 2018

Date of data download: 23 November 2018

Please note: Any Quality Outcomes Framework (QOF) data relates to 2017/18.

Safe

Safety systems and processes

Safeguarding	Y/N
There was a lead member of staff for safeguarding processes and procedures.	N
Safety and safeguarding systems, processes and practices were developed, implemented and communicated to staff.	N
Policies were in place covering adult and child safeguarding.	Y
Policies were updated and reviewed and accessible to all staff.	Y
Partners and staff were trained to appropriate levels for their role (for example level three for GPs, including locum GPs)	Y
Information about patients at risk was shared with other agencies in a timely way.	Y
Systems were in place to highlight vulnerable patients on record. There was a risk register of specific patients	Y
Disclosure and Barring Service checks were undertaken where required	Y
Explanation of any 'No' answers: There was no clinical member of staff designated as the safeguarding lead within the practice. A register of children at risk had only recently been produced and there were no clear plans for how this was going to be reviewed with other agencies.	

Recruitment Systems	Y/N
Recruitment checks were carried out in accordance with regulations (including for agency staff and locums).	Y
Systems were in place to ensure the registration of clinical staff (including nurses and pharmacists) was checked and regularly monitored.	Y
Staff who require medical indemnity insurance had it in place	Y

Explanation of any answers:

Safety Records	Y/N
There was a record of portable appliance testing or visual inspection by a competent person Date of last inspection/Test: 09/09/2018	Y
There was a record of equipment calibration Date of last calibration: 14/08/2018	Y
Risk assessments were in place for any storage of hazardous substances e.g. liquid nitrogen, storage of chemicals	Y
Fire procedure in place	Y
Fire extinguisher checks	Y
Fire drills and logs	Y
Fire alarm checks	Y
Fire training for staff	Y
Fire marshals	Y
Fire risk assessment Date of completion; August 2017	Y
Health and safety Premises/security risk assessment? Date of last assessment:	
Health and safety risk assessment and actions Date of last assessment: October 2018	Y
Additional comments: Security of the premises was managed by the estates provider.	

Infection control	Y/N
Risk assessment and policy in place	Y
Date of last infection control audit: October 2018	
The practice acted on any issues identified	Y
The arrangements for managing waste and clinical specimens kept people safe?	Y

Risks to patients

Question	Y/N
There was an effective approach to managing staff absences and busy periods.	Y
Staff knew how to respond to emergency situations.	Y
Receptionists were aware of actions to take if they encountered a deteriorating or acutely unwell patient and had been given guidance on identifying such patients.	Y
In addition, there was a process in the practice for urgent clinician review of such patients.	Y
The practice had equipment available to enable assessment of patients with presumed sepsis.	Y
There were systems in place to enable the assessment of patients with presumed sepsis in line with National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance.	Y

Information to deliver safe care and treatment

Question	Y/N
Individual care records, including clinical data, were written and managed in line with current guidance and relevant legislation.	Y
Referral letters contained specific information to allow appropriate and timely referrals.	Y
Referrals to specialist services were documented.	Y
The practice had a documented approach to the management of test results and this was managed in a timely manner.	Y
The practice demonstrated that when patients use multiple services, all the information needed for their ongoing care was shared appropriately and in line with relevant protocols.	Y
Explanation of any answers:	

Appropriate and safe use of medicines

Indicator	Practice	CCG average	England average	England comparison
Number of antibacterial prescription items prescribed per Specific Therapeutic group Age-sex Related Prescribing Unit (STAR PU) (01/10/2017 to 30/09/2018) NHS Business Service Authority - NHSBSA)	1.15	1.10	0.94	Comparable with other practices
The number of prescription items for co-amoxiclav, cephalosporins and quinolones as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for selected antibacterial drugs (BNF 5.1 sub-set). (01/10/2017 to 30/09/2018) (NHSBSA)	9.3%	8.0%	8.7%	Comparable with other practices

Medicines Management	Y/N
The practice had a process and clear audit trail for the management of information about changes to a patient's medicines including changes made by other services.	Y
Staff had the appropriate authorisations in place to administer medicines (including Patient Group Directions or Patient Specific Directions).	Y
Prescriptions (pads and computer prescription paper) were kept securely and monitored.	Y
There was a process for the management of medicines including high risk medicines (for example, warfarin, methotrexate and lithium) with appropriate monitoring and clinical review prior to prescribing.	Partly
If the practice had controlled drugs on the premises there were systems for the safe ordering, checks on receipt, storage, administration, balance checks and disposal of these medicines in line with national guidance.	N/A
Up to date local prescribing guidelines were in use.	Y
Clinical staff were able to access a local microbiologist for advice.	Y
For remote or online prescribing there were effective protocols in place for identifying and verifying the patient in line with General Medical Council guidance.	Y
The practice held appropriate emergency medicines and risk assessments were in place to determine the range of medicines held.	Y
The practice had arrangements to monitor the stock levels and expiry dates of emergency medicines/medical gases.	Y
There was medical oxygen on site.	Y
The practice had a defibrillator.	Y
Both were checked regularly and this was recorded.	Y
Medicines that required refrigeration were appropriately stored, monitored and transported in line with PHE guidance to ensure they remained safe and effective in use.	Y
<p>Explanation of any answers:</p> <p>GPs were responsible for ensuring all appropriate checks had been carried out before issuing a repeat prescription. Designated members of staff were responsible for running searches to ensure patients taking high risk medicines had undergone appropriate checks. There was no monitoring or oversight of</p>	

repeat prescribing of high risk medicines by the provider. The policy of the organisation was that patients prescribed high risk medicines would have their medicines prescribed by a GP on an acute basis rather than on repeat prescription. However, this was not being followed by the GPs as they issued repeat prescriptions for these medicines. We looked at a sample of prescribing of high risk medicines and health checks had been carried out appropriately for the patients we looked at.

Track record on safety and lessons learned and improvements made

Significant events	Y/N
There was a system for recording and acting on significant events	Y
Staff understood how to report incidents both internally and externally	Y
There was evidence of learning and dissemination of information	N
Number of events recorded in last 12 months.	3
Number of events that required action	3
Explanation of any answers: There were systems for identifying and reporting significant events and incidents and for sharing lessons learned from events so as to improve the safety of the service. However, we found that staff were not always aware of the outcomes of incidents and complaints at this practice.	

Example(s) of significant events recorded and actions by the practice;

Event	Specific action taken
A clinician did not attend for their scheduled sessions.	Booked appointments were cancelled with patients and clinical cover was provided for emergency appointment requests by another GP practice.
Patient became unwell in reception area.	One of the GPs provided emergency care whilst awaiting an ambulance. Concerns regarding call handling were raised with ambulance service for review.

Safety Alerts	Y/N
There was a system for recording and acting on safety alerts	Y
Staff understand how to deal with alerts	Y
Comments on systems in place:	

Effective

Effective needs assessment, care and treatment

Prescribing				
Indicator	Practice performance	CCG average	England average	England comparison
Average daily quantity of Hypnotics prescribed per Specific Therapeutic group Age-sex Related Prescribing Unit (STAR PU) (01/10/2017 to 30/09/2018) (NHSBSA)	1.02	0.95	0.81	Comparable with other practices

People with long-term conditions

Diabetes Indicators				
Indicator	Practice performance	CCG average	England average	England comparison
The percentage of patients with diabetes, on the register, in whom the last IFCC-HbA1c is 64 mmol/mol or less in the preceding 12 months (01/04/2017 to 31/03/2018) (QOF)	79.4%	78.7%	78.8%	Comparable with other practices
QOF Exceptions	Practice Exception rate (number of exceptions)	CCG Exception rate	England Exception rate	
	20.1% (27)	12.8%	13.2%	
Indicator	Practice performance	CCG average	England average	England comparison
The percentage of patients with diabetes, on the register, in whom the last blood pressure reading (measured in the preceding 12 months) is 140/80 mmHg or less (01/04/2017 to 31/03/2018) (QOF)	85.1%	74.5%	77.7%	Comparable with other practices
QOF Exceptions	Practice Exception rate (number of exceptions)	CCG Exception rate	England Exception rate	
	9.7% (13)	9.5%	9.8%	

Indicator	Practice performance	CCG average	England average	England comparison
The percentage of patients with diabetes, on the register, whose last measured total cholesterol (measured within the preceding 12 months) is 5 mmol/l or less (01/04/2017 to 31/03/2018) (QOF)	84.4%	81.3%	80.1%	Comparable with other practices
QOF Exceptions	Practice Exception rate (number of exceptions)	CCG Exception rate	England Exception rate	
	9.0% (12)	11.1%	13.5%	

Other long term conditions				
Indicator	Practice	CCG average	England average	England comparison
The percentage of patients with asthma, on the register, who have had an asthma review in the preceding 12 months that includes an assessment of asthma control using the 3 RCP questions, NICE 2011 menu ID: NM23 (01/04/2017 to 31/03/2018) (QOF)	70.0%	70.9%	76.0%	Comparable with other practices
QOF Exceptions	Practice Exception rate (number of exceptions)	CCG Exception rate	England Exception rate	
	7.9% (12)	11.7%	7.7%	
Indicator	Practice	CCG average	England average	England comparison
The percentage of patients with COPD who have had a review, undertaken by a healthcare professional, including an assessment of breathlessness using the Medical Research Council dyspnoea scale in the preceding 12 months (01/04/2017 to 31/03/2018) (QOF)	91.4%	85.9%	89.7%	Comparable with other practices
QOF Exceptions	Practice Exception rate (number of exceptions)	CCG Exception rate	England Exception rate	
	6.5% (4)	12.5%	11.5%	

Indicator	Practice	CCG average	England average	England comparison
The percentage of patients with hypertension in whom the last blood pressure reading measured in the preceding 12 months is 150/90mmHg or less (01/04/2017 to 31/03/2018) (QOF)	82.3%	81.4%	82.6%	Comparable with other practices
QOF Exceptions	Practice Exception rate (number of exceptions)	CCG Exception rate	England Exception rate	
	2.9% (9)	5.3%	4.2%	
Indicator	Practice	CCG average	England average	England comparison
In those patients with atrial fibrillation with a record of a CHA2DS2-VASc score of 2 or more, the percentage of patients who are currently treated with anti-coagulation drug therapy (01/04/2017 to 31/03/2018) (QOF)	80.0%	87.6%	90.0%	Comparable with other practices
QOF Exceptions	Practice Exception rate (number of exceptions)	CCG Exception rate	England Exception rate	
	7.4% (2)	6.8%	6.7%	
Any additional evidence or comments				

Families, children and young people

Child Immunisation				
Indicator	Numerator	Denominator	Practice %	Comparison to WHO target
The percentage of children aged 1 who have completed a primary course of immunisation for Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio, Pertussis, Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib)(i.e. three doses of DTaP/IPV/Hib) (01/04/2017 to 31/03/2018)(NHS England)	32	34	94.1%	Met 90% minimum (no variation)
The percentage of children aged 2 who have received their booster immunisation for Pneumococcal infection (i.e. received Pneumococcal booster) (PCV booster) (01/04/2017 to 31/03/2018) (NHS England)	26	27	96.3%	Met 95% WHO based target (significant variation positive)
The percentage of children aged 2 who have received their immunisation for Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib) and Meningitis C	26	27	96.3%	Met 95% WHO based target (significant variation positive)

(MenC) (i.e. received Hib/MenC booster) (01/04/2017 to 31/03/2018) (NHS England)				
The percentage of children aged 2 who have received immunisation for measles, mumps and rubella (one dose of MMR) (01/04/2017 to 31/03/2018) (NHS England)	26	27	96.3%	Met 95% WHO based target (significant variation positive)
Any additional evidence or comments				

Working age people (including those recently retired and students)

Cancer Indicators				
Indicator	Practice	CCG average	England average	England comparison
The percentage of women eligible for cervical cancer screening at a given point in time who were screened adequately within a specified period (within 3.5 years for women aged 25 to 49, and within 5.5 years for women aged 50 to 64) (01/04/2016 to 31/03/2017) (Public Health England)	68.2%	70.5%	72.1%	Comparable with other practices
Females, 50-70, screened for breast cancer in last 36 months (3 year coverage, %) (PHE)	56.2%	64.0%	70.3%	N/A
Persons, 60-69, screened for bowel cancer in last 30 months (2.5 year coverage, %) (PHE)	47.4%	52.0%	54.6%	N/A
The percentage of patients with cancer, diagnosed within the preceding 15 months, who have a patient review recorded as occurring within 6 months of the date of diagnosis. (PHE)	33.3%	70.1%	71.3%	N/A
Number of new cancer cases treated (Detection rate: % of which resulted from a two week wait (TWW) referral) (01/04/2016 to 31/03/2017) (PHE)	46.7%	48.4%	51.6%	Comparable with other practices
Any additional evidence or comments				
Cancer screening uptake was lower than local and national averages. Patients who had not attended cancer screening programmes were written to by the practice and encouraged to take up screening.				

People experiencing poor mental health (including people with dementia)

Mental Health Indicators				
Indicator	Practice	CCG average	England average	England comparison
The percentage of patients with schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorder and other psychoses who have a comprehensive, agreed care plan documented in the record, in the preceding 12	92.6%	85.5%	89.5%	Comparable with other practices

months (01/04/2017 to 31/03/2018) (QOF)				
QOF Exceptions	Practice Exception rate (number of exceptions)	CCG Exception rate	England Exception rate	
	3.6% (1)	10.0%	12.7%	
Indicator	Practice	CCG average	England average	England comparison
The percentage of patients with schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorder and other psychoses whose alcohol consumption has been recorded in the preceding 12 months (01/04/2017 to 31/03/2018) (QOF)	96.3%	85.1%	90.0%	Comparable with other practices
QOF Exceptions	Practice Exception rate (number of exceptions)	CCG Exception rate	England Exception rate	
	3.6% (1)	8.7%	10.5%	
Indicator	Practice	CCG average	England average	England comparison
The percentage of patients diagnosed with dementia whose care plan has been reviewed in a face-to-face review in the preceding 12 months (01/04/2017 to 31/03/2018) (QOF)	86.7%	82.4%	83.0%	Comparable with other practices
QOF Exceptions	Practice Exception rate (number of exceptions)	CCG Exception rate	England Exception rate	
	0 (0)	5.4%	6.6%	
Any additional evidence or comments				

Monitoring care and treatment

Indicator	Practice	CCG average	England average
Overall QOF score (out of maximum 559)	-	-	-
Overall QOF exception reporting (all domains)	6.4%	6.6%	5.8%

Coordinating care and treatment

Indicator	Y/N
The contractor has regular (at least 3 monthly) multidisciplinary case review meetings where all patients on the palliative care register are discussed (01/04/2017 to 31/03/2018) (QOF)	Yes

Helping patients to live healthier lives

Indicator	Practice	CCG average	England average	England comparison
The percentage of patients with any or any combination of the following conditions: CHD, PAD, stroke or TIA, hypertension, diabetes, COPD, CKD, asthma, schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorder or other psychoses whose notes record smoking status in the preceding 12 months (01/04/2017 to 31/03/2018) (QOF)	96.1%	95.5%	95.1%	Comparable with other practices
QOF Exceptions	Practice Exception rate (number of exceptions)	CCG Exception rate	England Exception rate	
	0.2% (1)	1.1%	0.8%	

Caring

Kindness, respect and compassion

CQC comments cards	
Total comments cards received	24
Number of CQC comments received which were positive about the service	24
Number of comments cards received which were mixed about the service	3
Number of CQC comments received which were negative about the service	0

Examples of feedback received:

Source	Feedback
For example, comments cards, NHS Choices	We received 24 completed patient comment cards. All of these included positive feedback about the care and treatment provided and about the staff team. Three comment cards sited concerns with consistency of GPs. However all three comment cards detailed that the service was good and that people's experience of the GPs was good. Each of the patients we spoke with also sited consistency of GPs as a concern.

National GP Survey results

Practice population size	Surveys sent out	Surveys returned	Survey Response rate%	% of practice population
2675	394	88	22.3%	3.29%

Indicator	Practice	CCG average	England average	England comparison
The percentage of respondents to the GP patient survey who stated that the last time they had a general practice appointment, the healthcare professional was good or very good at listening to them (01/01/2018 to 31/03/2018)	77.6%	88.3%	89.0%	Comparable with other practices
The percentage of respondents to the GP patient survey who stated that the last time they had a general practice appointment, the healthcare professional was good or very good at treating them with care and concern (01/01/2018 to 31/03/2018)	76.8%	86.8%	87.4%	Comparable with other practices

Indicator	Practice	CCG average	England average	England comparison
The percentage of respondents to the GP patient survey who stated that during their last GP appointment they had confidence and trust in the healthcare professional they saw or spoke to (01/01/2018 to 31/03/2018)	88.5%	96.1%	95.6%	Comparable with other practices
The percentage of respondents to the GP patient survey who responded positively to the overall experience of their GP practice (01/01/2018 to 31/03/2018)	73.2%	82.5%	83.8%	Comparable with other practices
<p>Any additional evidence or comments</p> <p>The provider was aware of the lower than average scores received from the National Patient Survey and was working to improve patient experience.</p>				

Question	Y/N
The practice carries out its own patient survey/patient feedback exercises.	Y

Date of exercise	Summary of results
November 2018	An annual patient survey was completed in November 2018. Themes from the survey were positive regarding communication with patients in the practice and patient experience was also good. The main concern of patients was the continuity of GPs service and this is something the provider is working to address.

Involvement in decisions about care and treatment

Examples of feedback received:

Source	Feedback
Interviews with patients.	

National GP Survey results

Indicator	Practice	CCG average	England average	England comparison
The percentage of respondents to the GP patient survey who stated that during their last GP appointment they were involved as much as they wanted to be in decisions about their care and treatment (01/01/2018 to 31/03/2018)	92.1%	93.4%	93.5%	Comparable with other practices
Any additional evidence or comments				

Question	Y/N
Interpretation services were available for patients who did not have English as a first language.	Y
Patient information leaflets and notices were available in the patient waiting area which told patients how to access support groups and organisations.	N
Information leaflets were available in easy read format.	N
Information about support groups was available on the practice website.	N

Carers	Narrative
Percentage and number of carers identified	Carers were not identified.
How the practice supports carers	Information about support services for carers was available at the practice.
How the practice supports recently bereaved patients	Sympathy cards were sent to bereaved patients. Bereaved patients were offered a GP appointment and were signposted to bereavement support services.

Privacy and dignity

Question	Y/N
Curtains were provided in consulting rooms to maintain patients' privacy and dignity during examinations, investigations and treatments.	Y

	Narrative
Arrangements to ensure confidentiality at the reception desk	Discussions with staff indicated that they recognised the importance of patients' dignity and respect and they told us how they worked to ensure they maintained patient confidentiality. Staff told us they could offer patients a private area if they wanted to discuss sensitive issues or if they appeared uncomfortable or distressed.

Question	Y/N
Consultation and treatment room doors were closed during consultations.	Y
A private room was available if patients were distressed or wanted to discuss sensitive issues.	Y

Responsive

Responding to and meeting people's needs

Practice Opening Times	
Day	Time
Monday	8am - 6:30pm
Tuesday	8am - 6:30pm
Wednesday	8am - 6:30pm
Thursday	8am - 6:30pm
Friday	8am - 6:30pm

Appointments available
Extended hours opening
Patients can access GPs seven days per week as from 01/10/2018 as part of the local CCG wide extended hours service. This is available from 5pm to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 1pm Saturdays and Sundays.

Home visits	Y/N
The practice had a system to assess whether a home visit was clinically necessary and the urgency of the need for medical attention	Y
If yes, describe how this was done	
GPs triaged requests for home visits. Home visits were provided to patients whose needs required this.	

National GP Survey results

Practice population size	Surveys sent out	Surveys returned	Survey Response rate%	% of practice population
2675	394	88	22.3%	3.29%

Indicator	Practice	CCG average	England average	England comparison
The percentage of respondents to the GP patient survey who stated that at their last general practice appointment, their needs were met (01/01/2018 to 31/03/2018)	96.3%	94.7%	94.8%	Comparable with other practices

Timely access to the service

National GP Survey results

Indicator	Practice	CCG average	England average	England comparison
The percentage of respondents to the GP patient survey who responded positively to how easy it was to get through to someone at their GP practice on the phone (01/01/2018 to 31/03/2018)	59.4%	63.4%	70.3%	Comparable with other practices
The percentage of respondents to the GP patient survey who responded positively to the overall experience of making an appointment (01/01/2018 to 31/03/2018)	56.2%	65.8%	68.6%	Comparable with other practices
The percentage of respondents to the GP patient survey who were very satisfied or fairly satisfied with their GP practice appointment times (01/01/2018 to 31/03/2018)	54.7%	62.9%	65.9%	Comparable with other practices
The percentage of respondents to the GP patient survey who were satisfied with the type of appointment (or appointments) they were offered (01/01/2018 to 31/03/2018)	61.5%	72.3%	74.4%	Comparable with other practices
Any additional evidence or comments				

Listening and learning from complaints received

Complaints	Y/N
Number of complaints received in the last year.	5
Number of complaints we examined	2
Number of complaints we examined that were satisfactorily handled in a timely way	2
Number of complaints referred to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman	0
Additional comments:	
One complaint had been logged as 'rejected'. We looked at the nature of the complaint and actions taken. We found that one of the GPs had taken action to investigate the concerns. However, there was no oversight of this action by the provider. The provider told us they had since recognised that 'rejected' should not have been an outcome of any complaints received.	

Well-led

Leadership capacity and capability

Examples of how leadership, capacity and capability were demonstrated by the practice

The leaders within the organisation had a clear commitment, capacity and capability to provide a good quality service.

There was some improvement required to systems and processes under our key question of safe.

The provider was in the process of strengthening some of the quality assurance systems in place across each of the registered GP locations. This practice was not as far on in the improvement journey as some of the provider's other locations. At the time of our inspection there were shortages in the staffing requirements, there were no salaried clinical staff and the practice manager was on a period of extended leave. Alongside this the practice was taking on a high number of new patients many of whom were asylum seekers with additional needs as a result of their circumstances. The provider was supporting the practice to improve but was not supporting the practice well with these areas of risk.

Vision and strategy

Practice Vision and values

The provider had a vision and strategy to provide a high-quality service.

Staff we spoke with demonstrated the values of openness and person-centred care are treatment.

Culture

Examples that demonstrate that the practice has a culture of high-quality sustainable care

Staff told us they felt supported to raise issues or concerns. However, they didn't always feel confident that the provider was listening and taking action to address their concerns.

The provider was aware of and had systems to ensure compliance with the requirements of the duty of candour.

Staff told us there were positive and supportive relationships across the staff team.

Examples of feedback from staff or other evidence about working at the practice

Source	Feedback
Feedback from member of staff	Staff told us they felt they worked well as a team and supported each other.
Feedback from member of staff	Staff told us that leaders were approachable.

Governance arrangements

Examples of structures, processes and systems in place to support the delivery of good quality and sustainable care.	
Practice specific policies	Policies and procedures were available to staff. However, not all members of staff we spoke with were familiar with how to access/locate all of them and not all procedures were being followed.
Other examples	The provider had commissioned the services of a consultant in primary care management to review and improve all systems across all of their registered GP practice locations.
	Y/N
Staff were able to describe the governance arrangements	Y
Staff were clear on their roles and responsibilities	Y

Managing risks, issues and performance

Major incident planning	Y/N
Major incident plan in place	Y
Staff trained in preparation for major incident	Y

Examples of actions taken to address risks identified within the practice

Risk	Example of risk management activities
A risk register was in place	A risk register was in place at the practice that identified all major risks and included plans to mitigate these. Risks were scored according to the level of risk and more high-risk issues were escalated to the provider's overarching risk register.

Appropriate and accurate information

Question	Y/N
Staff whose responsibilities include making statutory notifications understood what this entails.	Y

Engagement with patients, the public, staff and external partners

Feedback from Patient Participation Group;

Feedback
The practice did not have a Patient Participation Group (PPG). The acting manager told us they had tried to encourage patients to join a PPG but to no success.

Continuous improvement and innovation

Examples of improvements demonstrated as a result of clinical audits in past two years

Audit area	Improvement
There had been no clinical audits carried out.	

Notes: CQC GP Insight

GP Insight assesses a practice's data against all the other practices in England. We assess relative performance for the majority of indicators using a "z-score" (this tells us the number of standard deviations from the mean the data point is), giving us a statistical measurement of a practice's performance in relation to the England average. We highlight practices which significantly vary from the England average (in either a positive or negative direction). We consider that z-scores which are higher than +2 or lower than -2 are at significant levels, warranting further enquiry. Using this technique we can be 95% confident that the practice's performance is genuinely different from the average. It is important to note that a number of factors can affect the Z score for a practice, for example a small denominator or the distribution of the data. This means that there will be cases where a practice's data looks quite different to the average, but still shows as comparable, as we do not have enough confidence that the difference is genuine. There may also be cases where a practice's data looks similar across two indicators, but they are in different variation bands.

The percentage of practices which show variation depends on the distribution of the data for each indicator, but is typically around 10-15% of practices. The practices which are not showing significant statistical variation are labelled as comparable to other practices.

N.B. Not all indicators in the evidence table are part of the GP insight set and those that aren't will not have a variation band.

The following language is used for showing variation:

	Variation Band	Z-score threshold
1	Significant variation (positive)	$Z \leq -3$
2	Variation (positive)	$-3 < Z \leq -2$
3	Comparable to other practices	$-2 < Z < 2$
4	Variation (negative)	$2 \leq Z < 3$
5	Significant variation (negative)	$Z \geq 3$
6	No data	Null

Note: for the following indicators the variation bands are different:

- Child Immunisation indicators. These are scored against the World Health Organisation target of 95% rather than the England average.

It is important to note that z-scores are not a judgement in themselves, but will prompt further enquiry, as part of our ongoing monitoring of GP practices.

Guidance and Frequently Asked Questions on GP Insight can be found on the following link:

<http://www.cqc.org.uk/what-we-do/how-we-use-information/monitoring-gp-practices>

Glossary of terms used in the data.

- **COPD:** Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
- **PHE:** Public Health England
- **QOF:** Quality and Outcomes Framework (see <https://qof.digital.nhs.uk/>).
- **RCP:** Royal College of Physicians.
- **STAR-PU:** Specific Therapeutic Group Age-sex weightings Related Prescribing Units. These weighting allow more accurate and meaningful comparisons within a specific therapeutic group by taking into account the types of people who will be receiving that treatment. ([See NHS Choices for more details](#)).