 **Introduction to resources to support GP practices to prepare for a regulatory inspection**

**Prescribing Tip For Information**

[PrescQIPP](https://www.prescqipp.info/our-resources/bulletins/bulletin-332-preparing-gp-practices-for-a-regulatory-inspection/) have developed resources to support GP practices in preparing for a regulatory inspection including a bulletin, briefing, template medicines policy, presentation for CQC, welcome pack for CQC inspectors, a checklist for preparing for an inspection and a summary of the CQC myth busters. The Medicine’s Optimisation team plan to write a series of prescribing tips to cover some of the key areas looked at during a CQC inspection with the aim of supporting practices to ensure their processes are in line with CQC guidance. Any practice employed or PCN staff member can register with PrescQIPP for free. When registering you should ensure you select ICS Lancashire and South Cumbria as your organisation.

In terms of medicines management, the inspection team aims to determine how the provider ensures the proper and safe use of medicines, where the service is responsible. There are eight questions that need to be answered in order to assess this:

**1. How are medicines and medicines-related stationery managed (that is, ordered, transported, stored and disposed of safely and securely)? This includes medical gases and emergency medicines and equipment.**

**2. Are medicines appropriately prescribed, administered and/or supplied to people in line with the relevant legislation, current national guidance or best available evidence?**

**3. Do people receive specific advice about their medicines in line with current national guidance or evidence?**

**4. How does the service make sure that people receive their medicines as intended, and is this recorded appropriately?**

**5. Are people’s medicines reconciled in line with current national guidance when transferring between locations or changing levels of care?**

**6. Are people receiving appropriate therapeutic drug and physical health monitoring with appropriate follow-up in accordance with current national guidance or evidence?**

**7. Are people’s medicines regularly reviewed including the use of ‘when required’ medicines?**

**8. How does the service make sure that people’s behaviour is not controlled by excessive or inappropriate use of medicines**

Steps practices can take:

* Periodic running of the CQC clinical searches (these are freely available to all)
* Development or review of a medicines policy to cover prescribing including high-risk drugs, controlled drugs and repeat dispensing. There is a template medicines policy available from PrescQIPP
* Utilise the [CQC GP Mythbusters](https://www.cqc.org.uk/guidance-providers/gps/gp-mythbusters) to assist with understanding what is looked at during an inspection
* Consider signing up to receive [CQC email newsletters](https://www.cqc.org.uk/news/newsletters-alerts/email-newsletters-cqc)

Other available resources:

* The British Medical Association has produced guidance entitled ‘[How to prepare for a CQC inspection’](https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/gp-practices/the-cqc/how-to-prepare-for-a-cqc-inspection). This is a practical guide for GP practices preparing for their inspection
* NHS South West London has also produced a document – [CQC Inspections and Medicines Guidance for Primary Care](https://swlimo.southwestlondon.icb.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/CQC-Inspections-and-Medicines-Guidance-for-Primary-Care-IMOC-Approved.pdf)

**With thanks to PrescQIPP. To contact the Medicines Optimisation Team please phone 01772 214302**

**If you have any suggestions for future topics to cover in our prescribing tips please contact** **Nicola.schaffel@nhs.net** **.**

**All content accurate and correct on the date of issue of this tip.**