

Email sent on behalf of Professor David Haslam, President RCGP

Dear Members and Fellows,

RE: The Quality Practice Award (QPA)

The College is very much aware that there are some outstanding Practices in the country who strive to provide high quality care to their patients and that many of you are leading the way. In our current healthcare climate it is important that these efforts are publicly and professionally recognised. The Quality Practice Award is the highest quality award offered by the College in recognition of achieving high standards in primary care.

Although there are several quality awards currently available, many of these are narrow in their assessment. QPA looks broadly at the function of general practice and considers not only practice systems, but also elements of clinical care.

QPA can be achieved by submitting a portfolio of evidence and participating in a full day assessment visit. The criteria for the award have been developed to enable all members of the practice team to be involved in the preparation of the written submission. Furthermore, all staff will be involved in the assessment visit. The intention is to value the process as a teambuilding experience, encouraging all to critically appraise their own roles within the practice team and thereby continually consider and improve patient care.

The College invests a great deal of time and resources to continually modifying and developing the QPA criteria such that they reflect the ongoing changes in general practice. Practices who undertake the assessment are therefore actively encouraged to feed into the development process.

Currently there are 257 practices in the UK who are working towards or have achieved QPA.

If your practice is working to continually achieve high standards and you feel as strongly as we do that your efforts should be recognised then we would strongly encourage you to consider undertaking QPA. Please find attached a leaflet detailing QPA. If you have any queries or questions please do not hesitate to contact either Dr Ken McLean (kenmclean@btinternet.com) or Dr John Warwick (member@warwi.freeserve.co.uk), QPA Co-Chairs, or Christine Manoharan, Quality Programmes Project Officer (cmanoharan@rcgp.org.uk).

Further information about QPA is available on the College website:

http://www.rcgp.org.uk/practising_as_a_gp/team_quality/qa.aspx

Quality in General Practice has never been so important, and there has rarely been so great a focus on the potential strengths of Primary Care in the United Kingdom. It is in the interests of the whole of UK primary care for as many practices as possible to wear the QPA 'badge of quality' with

pride.

Yours sincerely,

Professor David Haslam PRCGP CBE
President, RCGP

RCGP Annual National Primary Care Conference
2-4 October 2008 - Bournemouth International Centre
www.rcgpannualconference.org.uk