

Maternity incentive scheme year 2 (2018/19): verification process

Self-assessments undertaken by trusts as part of the Maternity Incentive Scheme are subject to verification against three external sources of validation and sense-checked with the Care Quality Commission (CQC). If any concerns or anomalies are identified, these are investigated and, if required, further evidence is requested from the trust.

The verification process works as follows:

1. Once trust submissions are received by NHS Resolution, they are reviewed to ensure signature (sign-off) by the trust chief executive on behalf of the board declaring that the submission has been discussed with the local commissioner.
2. Submissions then follow a three-point external verification process which enables NHS Resolution to challenge them where appropriate. These are:
 - the use of the National Perinatal Mortality Review Tool, verified with MBRRACE-UK;
 - the submission of data to the Maternity Services Data Set (MSDS), ratified with NHS Digital;
 - full reporting of qualifying incidents to NHS Resolution's Early Notification scheme, cross-checked with the National Neonatal Research Database.
3. In addition, submissions are subject to a CQC sense check. This means that all submissions declaring full compliance are discussed with the CQC and if concerns are highlighted, trusts are asked to review and confirm their submission.
4. The final results are confirmed and ratified by NHS Resolution's approvals committee which includes a non-executive member of the board.
5. Should concerns emerge either during or after confirmation of the results, trusts are asked to review their submission (including those for previous years) and, if required, to submit supporting evidence to NHS Resolution. If a trust is subsequently found to not be compliant, they will be required to repay any funding received.
6. To date the following trusts have been required to revise their self-declarations following this process:
 - East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust
 - Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust

West Suffolk NHS Trust have been asked to reconfirm and this is currently under review.

7. This process applies ongoing to all trusts involved in the scheme.