Summary of amendments (Q1 2013/14 data, August 2013)

Amendments have been made to 4 of the 16 existing (2012/13) comparators. The changes made are effective from the Q1 2013/14 data release. Introducing the revised QIPP comparators has resulted in changes to comparator values in Q1 2013/14 data compared with the previous 5 quarters. For two of the comparators the changes have been significant. Since this may be problematic to users who require in-year continuity in the monitoring of prescribing,

the original comparator will be reinstated and the revised comparator will be backdated to cover the same time period. The original comparator will be available alongside the revised comparator until the end of 2013/14 data. (NB: available Q3 2013/14 data release (February 2014).

Further detail of the amendments is provided in appendix 2.

1. **Low cost lipid modifying drugs**

* The numerator has been amended to only include generic statin preparations listed under Category M in part VIII of the drug tariff.
* The comparator description has been amended to reflect the amended numerator.
* The revised comparator was introduced from Q1 2013/14 data as a continuation from the previous to the revised comparator. i.e. data for the quarters prior to Q1 2013/14 is for the previous comparator. This may have resulted in a marked shift in values.

1. **Hypnotics ADQ/STAR PU (ADQ based)**

* The denominator has been amended to utilise a new Hypnotic (BNF 4.1.1. sub-set) ADQ based STAR-PU developed specifically for the numerator set.
* The comparator title and description has been amended to reflect the amended denominator.
* The revised comparator was introduced from Q1 2013/14 data and backdated for the previous 5 quarters (NB: available Q3 2013/14 data release (February 2014).
* The previous comparator will continue to be available up to and including Q4 2013/14 data.

1. **Antidepressant (selected): ADQ/STAR PU (ADQ based)**

* The numerator has been amended to only measure total ADQs for the drugs included in the amended denominator (see below). NB: same ‘selected antidepressants’ as the denominator for the ‘first choice’antidepressant comparator introduced in August 2012.
* The denominator has been amended to utilise new Antidepressants (BNF 4.3 sub-set) ADQ based STAR-PU developed specifically for the numerator set.
* The comparator title and description have been amended to reflect the amended numerator and amended denominator.
* The revised comparator was introduced from Q1 2013/14 data and backdated for the previous 5 quarters (available Q3 2013/14 data release (February 2014).
* The previous comparator continues to be available via the Information Services Portal as a volume comparator (Antidepressants ADQ/STAR PU).

1. **Long/intermediate acting insulin analogues**

* The numerator has been amended to include degludec (a new long acting insulin analogue introduced February 2013).
* The comparator title has been amended from ‘Long/intermediate acting insulin analogues’ to ‘Long-acting insulin analogues’
* The comparator description has been amended to remove specific reference to detemir and glargine and therefore include all current and any future long-acting insulin analogues.
* The revised comparator was introduced from Q1 2013/14 data as a continuation from the previous to the revised comparator. This is unlikely to have resulted in any noticeable change in values due to the amendment as the current volume of prescribing degludec is negligible.

Summary of new comparator (Q1 2013/14 data, August 2013)

**1. Omega-3 fatty acid compounds**

The comparator was introduced in August 2013 (Q1 2013/14 data release) to support a new key therapeutic topic (Omega-3 fatty acid supplements) and backdated for the previous 5 quarters

This is taken from the Health and Social Care Information Centre website specification document at [QIPP Prescribing Comparators: Description and Specification](http://www.hscic.gov.uk/media/13350/QIPP-prescribing-comparators-201314-Descriptions-and-specifications-Dec-2013/pdf/QIPP_prescribing_comparators_(2013_14)_Descriptions_and_specifications_(Dec_2013).pdf)