

Research by Professor Jones from Kings College London

The Quality and Outcomes Framework, which forms an important part of the GP NHS contract, rewards GPs for achieving targets for quality of care for a number of chronic diseases. Despite the fact that around 10% of general practice and hospital medicine has to do with digestive disorders, there are currently no criteria for good management of gastrointestinal problems in primary care. Professor Roger Jones from King's College London aims to change this. He is leading a research programme into four gastrointestinal disorders, including coeliac disease. Professor Jones states that for coeliac disease he will be focussing on 'improving diagnosis, by making GPs more aware of the likely symptoms and the tests available to make an early and accurate diagnosis'.

The research has started with a series of focus groups, which aimed to gain patients' perspectives of what constitutes good quality care. The second phase was a review of existing evidence and guidance and the third is to bring together the current guidance and the new findings from the patient research and develop computer prompts to help GPs achieve the quality criteria.

Professor Jones has now finished the focus group phase and is working with practices around the UK to carry out the next phase of the study.