

Statement of administrative sources

**Annex A: information on administrative source
Maternity Services Data Set**

Published 3 December 2019

Name of administrative source

Maternity Services Data Set version 2.0.

Enquiries

- Please contact the NHS Digital contact centre:
 - 0300 303 5678
 - enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk

Collection

Please give a short explanation of the processes through which the system's underlying 'raw data' are captured.

The MSDS is a patient level, administrative data set extracted from information collected from patients and entered onto hospital systems. The primary purpose of this data is managing the patient's care during pregnancy and birth. Providers of maternity care, primarily NHS Trusts with some independent sector providers, submit record level MSDS data to NHS Digital's Strategic Data Collection Service (SDCS) in the cloud. Submission is in XML format and consists of around 40 different tables.

The data set is collected from providers of NHS-funded maternity care for secondary (non-care) purposes such as:

- Improving care and clinical outcomes through research.
- Identifying variation in care between organisations.
- Derivation of payment pathways.

Quality assurance

Please give details of any arrangements for auditing the quality of administrative data from this system which is used for statistical purposes.

The data is identifiable (including NHS number, DOB, postcode, local patient identifier) and is validated upon submission. Major data quality errors are rejected whilst minor errors are accepted with a warning notification.

Once the data has been brought together into an MSDS data submission, the data is validated and assured at various stages during the processing. The assurance includes:

- Validation of NHS number, date of birth and postcode
- Validation of individual data elements against code and format specifications
- Referential integrity checks across different parts of the return

NHS Digital publishes data quality open data CSV files on a selection of data elements in the data set every month.

Application

Please give a description of each of the main applications/uses to which the administrative or management data are put before they are transformed into official statistics.

The MSDS is a patient level, administrative data set extracted from information collected from patients and entered onto hospital systems. The primary purpose of this data is managing the patient's care during pregnancy and birth. The data is submitted to NHS Digital for the secondary purposes of analysis and publication.

Access and Dissemination

Please provide a summary of the arrangements put in place for sharing and disseminating the administrative/management data during the period before they are converted into Official Statistics.

NHS Digital statistical governance policy: <https://digital.nhs.uk/binaries/content/assets/website-assets/publications/publications-admin-pages/related-documents/statistical-governance-policy.pdf>

NHS Digital statement of compliance with the Pre-release Order 2008: <https://digital.nhs.uk/binaries/content/assets/website-assets/publications/publications-admin-pages/related-documents/nhs-digital-statement-of-compliance-with-pre-release-access-order-2008.pdf>

NHS Digital Freedom of Information process: <https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/contact-us/freedom-of-information>

Office for Statistics Regulation: administrative data and official statistics: <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/osr/what-we-do/systemic-reviews/administrative-data-and-official-statistics/>

NHS Digital data security and information governance page: <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/looking-after-information/data-security-and-information-governance>

Information security is covered by three separate NHS Digital policies/processes/standards.

1. Technical and infrastructure security is covered by an internal review and documentation known as a System Level Security Policy. This specifies standards relating to hardware, software and data access policy (e.g. via 'Active Directory' permission groups).
2. Access to record level data for internal staff, for analysis and processing purposes is managed by the Clear Data Access (CDA) policy, with CDA forms requiring sign-off at senior level (IAO – Information Asset owner). CDA forms are subject to ongoing review and are valid for a maximum of 1 year.
 - a. Access to record level data for external staff is managed by individual Data Sharing Agreement (DSA), specifying legal basis, limits of allowable usage and retention period. Applications for data by 3rd party customers are subject to a security and ethical protocol overseen by the [IGARD group](#) (Independent Group Advising on the Release of Data).
3. Published data are subject to controls, including the use of rounding and data suppression of small numbers to minimise the risk of identification. Controls are ratified by NHS Digital's [Disclosure Control Panel](#).

Non-statistical publication

Please provide a summary of any exceptional arrangements put in place for placing the administrative/management data in the public domain during the period before they are converted into official statistics. If none, please state None.

None.

Statistical publication

Please provide a list of each of the official or National Statistics series derived from this system.

- Maternity Services Monthly Statistics: <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/maternity-services-monthly-statistics>
- NHS Maternity Statistics: <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/nhs-maternity-statistics>
- Maternity Services Dashboard: <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/data-collections-and-data-sets/data-sets/maternity-services-data-set/maternity-services-dashboard>

Synergies

Please provide a mapping which explains the relationship between any public manifestations of the administrative/management data, and any subsequent statistical releases or publications.

None prior to publication.

Security/data protection arrangements

Please explain any additional arrangements for ensuring the security of statistical processes that draw on administrative data other than those listed below eg: any data sharing agreements, relevant legislation.

Relevant policies/guidance:

- NHS Digital statistical governance policy: <https://digital.nhs.uk/binaries/content/assets/website-assets/publications/publications-admin-pages/related-documents/statistical-governance-policy.pdf>
- ONS review of the dissemination of health statistics: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/file?uri=/methodology/methodologytopicsandstatisticalconcepts/disclosurecontrol/healthstatistics/workingpaper3riskmanagementcm77181870.pdf>
- NHS Digital Freedom of Information process: <https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/contact-us/freedom-of-information#make-a-request>