

Statement of Administrative Sources

Annex A: Information on administrative source

ePACT-Prescribing data (from NHS Prescription Services)

Author: Rosemary Matheson

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Statement of Administrative Sources

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| Enquiries | Please contact the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) Contact centre Telephone: 0845 300 6016 and email: enquiries@hscic.gov.uk |
| Name of Administrative Source | ePACT Prescribing data (from NHS Prescription Services) |
| Section 1: Collection | <p><i>Please give a short explanation of the processes through which the system's underlying 'raw data' are captured.</i></p> <p>When a pharmacist, appliance contractor or doctor dispenses a prescription they return the form to Prescription Services at the NHS Business Services Authority. NHS Prescription Services price the prescription and reimburse the dispenser. Summary information from this process is made available to the NHS and the HSCIC.</p> <p>The electronic Prescribing Analysis and Cost tool (PACT) system covers prescriptions prescribed by GPs, nurses, pharmacists and others in England and dispensed in the community in the UK. For data at CCG/other organisation level, prescriptions written by a prescriber located in a particular PCT/CCG/other organisation but dispensed outside that CCG will be included in the CCG/other organisation in which the prescriber is based. The data available in PACT is a rolling 60 month dataset. Prescriptions written in England but dispensed outside England are included. Prescriptions written in hospitals/clinics that are dispensed in the community, prescriptions dispensed in hospitals, dental prescribing and private prescriptions are not included in PACT data. It is important to note this as some BNF sections have a high proportion of prescriptions written in hospitals that are dispensed in the community.</p> <p>For example, BNF chapter 4, "Central Nervous System" has a proportion of items written in mental health clinics that are dispensed in the community - these prescriptions are not included in PACT data.</p> |
| Section 2: Quality assurance | <p><i>Please give details of any arrangements for auditing the quality of administrative data from this system which is used for statistical purposes</i></p> <p>NHS Prescription Services have stated that due to the complex and manual processes involved there may be inaccuracies in capturing prescription information which are then reflected in the data. Internal quality assurance processes exist and currently the prescription processing activity is internally audited to 98.5 per cent accuracy (i.e. at least 98.5 per cent of prescriptions are recorded accurately).</p> |
| Section 3: Application | <p><i>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</i></p> <p>Re-imburement of dispensers</p> |

Statement of Administrative Sources

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| | <p>Apart from operational uses (Re-imbusement of dispensers), the data is also used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local monitoring and management of prescribing in primary care | |
| <p>Section 4: Access and Dissemination</p> | <p><i>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</i></p> <p>NHS Prescription Services make raw data available via their website, with a limited view of the data available to the public. NHS users can apply to be able to access more detailed data for their organisation. Each NHS user nomination is approved by a senior member of staff in their employing organisation.</p> <p>See below:</p> <p>HSCIC Statistical Governance policy available from http://www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/calendar (then click on “Statistical Governance Policy”)</p> <p>HSCIC Freedom of Information process available from http://www.hscic.gov.uk/foi (then click on “Freedom of Information Process”)</p> <p>Link to National Statistician’s Guidance: Use of Administrative or Management Information http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/national-statistician/guidance/index.html</p> <p>HSCIC Data Access and Information Sharing Policy available at http://www.hscic.gov.uk/media/1450/Data-access-information-sharing-policy/pdf/DAIS_Policy_Final_4.0_updated.pdf</p> <p>HSCIC Information Governance Legal Compliance Policy available at http://www.hscic.gov.uk/media/1451/Information-governance-legal-compliance/pdf/NHSIC_Information_Governance_Legal_Compliance_Policy.pdf</p> | |
| | Specify if shared Inside/Outside The HSCIC | <p>NHS Prescription Services make extracts of prescribing data available to Department of Health (DH) and different parts of the NHS on a regular basis for management purposes. They will also answer specific requests from the public. Data is made available to the public through NHS Prescription Services’ website (see above). This can take place before our publication.</p> |
| | Range | <p>If requested we would make part-year data available to members of the NHS and to DH. We also make such data available to others. This can take place before our publication subject to the restriction that data for the final quarter of</p> |
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Statement of Administrative Sources

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| | | the year or for the whole year would not be made available until after the publication. |
| | Nature | Data at national level is freely available (although see above). Quarterly data at CCG level is made available at BNF section level. More detailed data would be provided to the DH and NHS for management purposes. |
| | Timing | Data from NHS Prescription Services is available monthly, 6 weeks after the dispensing month. HSCIC do not release data for the final quarter of the year until after publication of the National Statistic related to these figures. |
| Section 5: Non-statistical publication | <p><i>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.</i></p> <p>See above. Better Care Better Value metrics - have agreed that the data provided for this does not undermine other publications and so can be published prior to related official statistics</p> | |
| Section 6: Statistical publication | <p><i>Please provide a list of each of the 'Official' or 'National' statistics series derived from this system.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital Prescribing, England • Prescribing for diabetes in England • Clinical Commissioning Group / Primary Care Trust Prescribing Data • Use of NICE-appraised medicines in the NHS in England (no longer published - last data was for 2012) • NICE Technology Appraisals in the NHS in England, Innovation Scorecard <p>The following are open data releases using this data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GP practice level prescribing data released monthly <p>HSCIC publications calendar: http://www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/calendar</p> | |
| Section 7: Synergies | <p><i>Please provide a mapping which explains the relationship between any public manifestations of the administrative/management data, and any subsequent statistical releases or publications.</i></p> <p>NHS Prescription Services make their data available to the NHS and publish some data to the public on their website substantially before we release our publications. HSCIC publish national, region, Area Team (AT), Clinical</p> | |

Statement of Administrative Sources

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| Section 8: Security/Data Protection arrangements | <p>Commissioning Group (CCG) level/Non-CCG level, and GP practice level data.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p>Relevant IG policies:</p> <p>HSCIC Statistical Governance policy available from http://www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/calendar (then click on “Statistical Governance Policy”)</p> <p>HSCIC Small numbers Procedure available from http://www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/calendar (then click on “Small Numbers Procedure”)</p> <p>ONS Confidentiality Guidance and working papers http://www.ons.gov.uk/about/consultations/closed-consultations/disclosure-review-for-health-statistics---consultation-on-guidance/</p> <p>HSCIC Freedom of Information process available from http://www.hscic.gov.uk/foi (then click on “Freedom of Information Process”)</p> |
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