

Announcement of methodological changes to the Compendium emergency readmissions indicators

Background

The emergency readmission indicators were last published in February 2021 using methodologies aligned across Compendium, Clinical Commissioning Group Outcomes Indicator Set (CCG OIS) and NHS Outcomes Framework (NHSOF) Compendium indicators.

All of the indicators use Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data as their primary data source and it is this data source that is undergoing a change in how it is derived, most significantly, in terms of how unique patients are identified. Details of the nature of the changes and their impacts can be found here:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/find-data-and-publications/statement-of-administrative-sources/methodological-changes#hospital-care>

The purpose of this document is to describe how these changes will impact the results of these indicators from the next Compendium publication onwards. (Publications for CCGOIS and NHSOF will also be impacted by this revised methodology.)

Methodological change

From the November 2021 publication onwards, the methodology used within the Compendium emergency readmissions indicators will include the changes described below. Full details of the updated methodology are available in the indicator specification document which is available to download from the Compendium dataset pages located here: <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/compendium-emergency-readmissions>.

Replacement of HESID with MPS Person ID

The most significant change is that the unique identifier used to identify individuals has been updated to use the Master Person Service (MPS) Person ID instead of the HES ID, which was previously used. The MPS Person ID is derived using a new standard person identifier algorithm that utilises insight from the MPS that confirms the individual's identity using Patient Demographics Service (PDS) data on Spine.

As identifying people across hospital admissions and discharge activity is a key feature of these emergency readmission indicators this is where the most impact is expected to be seen.

Impact

The impact of this change is very small. The following analysis is based on data for discharges in the period April 2013 to March 2019 for national breakdowns. Please note

that the impact analysis is based on a comparison using the “classic” HES data with one run using HESID and the other run using the new MPS Person ID.

- At national level, the numerators show increases of up to 973 and decreases of 16. The denominators show decreases down by 1,873. The indicator values range from increases of up to 0.033 and decreases down by 0.002. On average, the indicator values increase by 0.015 from 13.908 using HESID and 13.923 using the MPS Person ID.

Timing

The first publication to be affected by this change will be the January 2022 release, which covers discharges in the period April 2013 – March 2020.

Further information

Questions and feedback on the publication are welcomed and should be sent to enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk or alternatively call 0300 303 5678.