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Announcement of methodological change to Statistics on Obesity, Physical Activity and Diet, England, 2019

Change in methodology for calculating NHS hospital admissions for obesity related bariatric surgery)

Since 2012/13 the definition of bariatric surgery used in the publication has been aligned with the methodology used for NHS Healthcare Resource Groups (HRGs). In 2016/17 there was a change to the set of OPCS (Classification of Surgical Operations and Procedures) codes included in the bariatric surgery HRG, and so this change will also be applied to the statistical publication.

The change involves the removal of two codes:

G485 (insertion of gastric balloon), removed as this is a non-surgical procedure. This code accounted for around 250 to 320 obesity related records per year between 2015/16 and 2017/18, representing around 4% to 5% of the total.

G339 (unspecified other connection of stomach to jejunum), removed as this procedure would never be mapped to an obesity HRG grouping. This code accounts for a negligible number of records in recent years (between 0 and 1 per year).

The change effects data in tables 3.1 to 3.4 (labelled tables 9 to 12 in publications prior to 2019)

Time series data in tables 3.1 and 3.2 will be adjusted back to 2016/17, creating a break in time series at this point, with the estimated impact as per the volumes above.

Further details of the obesity related bariatric surgery definition, including the list of OPCS codes can be found in the appendices document of the latest annual publication. All existing publications can be found at the link below.

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/statistics-on-obesity-physical-activity-and-diet>