

Announcement of methodological changes to the Excess under 75 mortality rate in adults with serious mental illness indicator (equivalent to NHS Outcomes Framework indicator 1.5.i)

Background

Data used in the Excess under 75 mortality rate in adults with serious mental illness indicator is sourced from both the Mental Health Minimum Dataset (MHMDS) and the Mental Health Services Dataset (MHSDS). The methodology for identifying people within MHMDS and MHSDS was previously different, but person identifiers were mapped to ensure that it was possible to identify people who presented in both MHMDS and MHSDS.

In April 2019 the way in which NHS Digital collected and processed MHSDS data changed. This change made it easier for providers to submit data by using an internet-facing service and gave NHS Digital the power to process larger volumes of data.

Alongside this, the way in which individuals are identified within national datasets which use this new technology, including the MHSDS, has been updated and now uses the Master Person Service (MPS). Using a single method for identifying individuals across multiple datasets helps increase the amount of usable, better quality, linkable data available to support research and planning.

Methodological Changes

The MPS verifies the demographic information contained in a person's health and care records and matches it to their unique NHS number to confirm their identity.

The MPS aims to match the right person with the right record with a 99% accuracy rate and uses a 4-stage algorithm against the Patient Demographics Service (PDS) to provide a single best result for each record.

MPS also checks demographic details supplied in the submitted data file, such as age, gender and postcode, for their 'closeness' to the data held in PDS and produces an associated match confidence score. Any results matched under the confidence threshold will not result in a match.

Currently the lowest value score for matches in the MHSDS is 77.6% (which is an exact match on postcode and gender and a partial match on year of birth.)

Impact of change

The impact of switching to use the new MPS ID shows a decrease in the indicator values at a national level with the exception of liver disease which shows an increase. At lower geographies, the impact is greater, and a range of changes are seen, some of which are significant. This is because the change serves to reduce both the overall SMI population and the SMI deaths.

Uneven impacts

The differences seen at lower geographies can be traced back to poor data quality of submitted data, particularly in demographic information contained in the legacy datasets.

Timing

The first publication to be affected by this change will be the August 2021 release.

Further Information

Further details of the change in processing of MHSDS can be found here:

<https://nhs-prod.global.ssl.fastly.net/binaries/content/assets/website-assets/publications/publications-admin-pages/methodological-changes/method-change-notice---mhsds-dps-2019.pdf>

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