

## Announcement of methodological changes to the Recorded Dementia Diagnoses publication series

### Background

These data are collected to support NHS England and Improvement in ensuring GP practices are meeting contractual requirement as set out in the General Medical Services (GMS) Contract Regulations, and to support the [Prime Minister's challenge on dementia 2020](#). The data have been published since 2013-14, and include the dementia diagnosis rate indicator (an estimate of the actual number of patients thought to have dementia), as well as recorded dementia prevalence and counts relating to the provision of dementia assessments, care plans, reviews, and prescription of antipsychotic medication.

### Methodological changes

#### *New publication series*

The existing series (“Recorded dementia diagnoses”) is to be superseded, with the new series named “Primary care dementia data.”

Typically, indicators are changed, added to or removed from services such as the dementia data extract each year. Specifications for the dementia data extract can be found on the [NHS Digital website](#) in the form of business rules. The 2020-21 reporting year for the original service ended in October 2022 (as part of an annual cycle running from October to September). The new service will run in financial years (April – March), and also includes changes to the specification of some counts.

In order to generate a time series incorporating the updated count specifications, data will be extracted for the reporting months from April 2022 onwards. Data have already been collected under the previous specification for the period April 2022 – September 2022, and there will therefore be duplicate time series information available for the majority of counts presented in the release.

However, the figures for equivalent counts will not match between time series due to:

- Retrospective application of clinical codes to patient records
- Change in the practices participating in the service
- Changes in patient registration (e.g. recorded death, movement between practices)
- Updates to the clinical codes included in the service specification

In order to maximise clarity, a new publication series will be created, with a new time series based solely on the extracts under the new specification, beginning at April 2022.

### **Timing**

The first publication to be affected by this change will be the October 2022 release, which will cover the period April 2022 – October 2022, and is scheduled for release in January 2023.

### **Impact**

The introduction of the new publication series is anticipated to have a small impact on users who consume the summary data on a monthly basis, owing to the enhanced format of the .xlsx summary file.

Users who wish to create a time series extending back further than April 2022 will need to take account of the break in the time series, and will need to locate the data from previous reporting years via the superseded publication series.

Users of the .csv files who have created automated load processes will need to amend these processes in order to account for the updated file content and field names.

### **Further information**

Questions and feedback on the publication are welcomed and should be sent to [primarycare.domain@nhs.net](mailto:primarycare.domain@nhs.net) or alternatively call 0300 303 5678.