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Announcement of methodological change to NICE Technology Appraisals in the NHS in England (Innovation Scorecard): Experimental Statistics

Background

The 'NICE Technology Appraisals in the NHS in England (Innovation Scorecard)' publication provides information relating to use of medicines and other technologies which have been positively appraised through the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Technology Appraisals (TAs) process. The publication brings together data from a number of sources and allows comparisons between organisations.

The publication is released under 'experimental' status. This is a concept used for statistics in certain defined circumstances, largely to develop (with user input) new data sets and the methodologies used to analyse the data. There have been developments and additions with each version of this publication, and the changes made in this version are outlined below.

1. Change to presentation of data in Excel

In this publication data for Medicines and Medical Technologies has been split into separate Excel files. This is to try and reduce the files to manageable file sizes that are easier to download and manipulate.

Benefit: This provides smaller file sizes enabling easier downloads and more robust data manipulation for end users.

Impact: Low impact. Stakeholders supported this change.

2. Change to medicine inclusion criteria

In this publication the Technology Appraised (TA) start date for medicines has moved to January 2011 from January 2008. This is to reduce and focus the medicine list within the Innovation Scorecard and to achieve a manageable Excel file size. All other medicine inclusion criteria will remain the same, therefore there are 3 medicines that fall outside of the new TA date range that will continue to be included in the Innovation Scorecard as they either form part of a grouped estimate or there is clinically unwarranted variation in the uptake of the medicine.

The TA start date for medical technologies has moved forward to January 2008 from January 2004.



Benefit: This provides smaller file sizes enabling easier downloads and more robust data manipulation for end users as well as a more focussed medicine and medical technology lists.

Impact: Low impact. Historic data for redundant medicines is still available on the website.

3. Change to inclusion of Community and Mental Health Trusts

In this publication only those Trusts with acute care will be included in the Innovation Scorecard. All mental health trusts and community hospitals will be excluded. Where a Trust offers a combination of services, which requires them to submit acute care data, they will be included. Analysis of those Trusts that will be excluded has shown that the majority (70%) have never had any purchase or sales data for the medicines included in the Innovation Scorecard. Of the remaining 30%, it has been determined that very small amounts of medicines were purchased and the highest purchased medicines are typically those available in other primary and secondary care datasets. Removing this Trust level data will not therefore impact on the National, Area Team or CCG figures for these medicines.

Benefit: This provides smaller file sizes enabling easier downloads and more robust data manipulation for end users as well as a more focussed Acute Trust list.

Impact: Low impact. Removal of this Trust level data will not impact on the National, Area Team or CCG figures.

Future Developments

NHS England and HSCIC are keen to improve the value and benefits of the Innovation Scorecard, and welcome feedback on this work to assist in improving the process for data collection and validation for future iterations of the Innovation Scorecard.

Further planned developments include steps to incorporate more of the features in “The Use of NICE Appraised Medicines in the NHS in England” report.

Work will continue to explore further options for a longer term, strategic solution for Innovation Scorecard production.

Further Information

Please contact the HSCIC on 0300 303 5678 or email enquiries@hscic.gov.uk.