Version 1, published monthly 02 Oct 2015 – 10 Mar 2017
Version 2, published monthly 21 Apr 2017 –

Announcement of methodological change to Recorded Dementia Diagnoses

Version 1 of the Recorded Dementia Diagnoses publication included a count of registered patients aged 65 and over with a recorded diagnosis of dementia. This number was used elsewhere to calculate an age 65+ dementia diagnosis rate. The diagnosis rate compared the number of patients diagnosed with dementia to the number of patients one would expect to have dementia, given the numbers and ages of males and females resident in England.

Version 2 will incorporate the calculation of a diagnosis rate into the publication itself, so as to provide a unified approach for use across different parts of the health and care system, including:

a) NHS England: Dementia diagnosis monthly workbook (EAS1)

b) Public Health Outcomes Framework / Dementia profiles

c) CCG Outcomes Indicator Set

d) CCG Improvement and Assessment Framework

The new method of calculation will estimate the expected number of patients with dementia based on the numbers and ages of males and females registered with a GP, rather than all people resident in England. In this way the number of recorded diagnoses and the number of expected diagnoses will be drawn from the same group of patients. The new method will also include a measure of the uncertainty in the calculation, to avoid over-interpretation of differences between figures.

The new methodology will report a change to diagnosis rates for two reasons:

a) The number of people resident in England is not the same as the number of people registered with a GP. This difference is particularly noticeable in, for example, university towns and areas with high rates of emigration.

b) It is not possible to collect data from 100 per cent of GP practices. Previously this meant the number of recorded diagnoses was less complete than the number of expected diagnoses. The new methodology can adjust this for consistency.

Calculation

1. Calculate the estimated number of cases of dementia for each organisation (denominator) by applying the age and sex-specific reference rates from the Medical Research Council's Cognitive Function and Ageing Study II (CFAS II) to the age and sex structure of its GP registered patients:

$$E_k = \sum_{ij} N_{ijk} \times p_{ij}$$

Where:

E_k is the estimated value for the subject organisation *k*

N_{ijk} is the population (65+ patient list size) for each combination of age band *i* and sex *j* in subject organisation *k*

p_{ij} is the binomial proportion for each combination of age band *i* and sex *j* in the reference population (CFAS II)

2. Calculate the estimated diagnosis rate for each organisation (indicator value) by dividing its observed dementia diagnoses by its estimated value and express this as a percentage:

$$\lambda_k = \frac{O_k}{E_k} \times 100$$

Where:

λ_k is the estimated diagnosis rate for the subject organisation k

O_k is the recorded 65+ dementia diagnoses in the subject organisation k

E_k is the estimated value for the subject organisation k