



Version 1, published 13 November 2013

Announcement of methodological changes to *Statistics on Women's Smoking Status at Time of Delivery: England*

This methodological change notice states the amendments made to the above collection and publication. These changes are designed to simplify the collection process and to amend the validation processes to support the transfer of responsibility of the data from Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) to Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). They are also designed to facilitate the accurate recording of the data by amending the process to how revisions are processed and by publishing information on Data Quality to encourage improvements in these areas. The changes to the published data are mainly presentational.

The main changes to the collection process and validation are:

- The facility for organisations to submit revisions to data as part of the return process will be continued for the 2013/14 collection year as this is the first year CCGs are responsible for submitting data. However, from 2014/15 there will not be the ability to submit revisions as part of the collections. (Any revisions can still be actioned according to the Health and Social Care Information Centre's (HSCIC) revisions process.) This change is intended to ensure that accurate and reliable data are collected to maximise the usefulness of the data for decision making purposes.
- A secondary validation check that was applied once the data was collected has been replaced by an alternative validation check that has been built into the collection tool to validate the data at the point of entry. This change replaces the check that compares the number of maternities reported falls within an 'expected' range by comparing to the number of maternities over the last 5 years reported by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). This has been replaced by a new validation that checks the number of maternities reported in each quarter falls within an 'expected' range by comparing to the number reported in the same quarter of the previous year. This change, whilst introducing the benefit of validating at the point of entry, was also part forced due to the unavailability of ONS data at CCG level.
- Previously, data that has failed a validation check (e.g. percentage of women whose smoking status was not known >5%) was not published. From Quarter 1 of 2013/14, all data will be published. An accompanying Data Quality table will present information on the quality of the data, and will also highlight any areas that may have concerns and encourage improvements.



- Previously, three data items were collected: number of women known to be smoking at the time of delivery; number of women known to be not smoking at the time of delivery; number of maternities. From these three variables, the number of women whose smoking status was not known could be calculated. From Quarter 1 of 2013/14, the number of 'not knows' is also collected as this is considered more accurate as a validation check can be built into the system to ensure the sum of the three categories equals the total number of maternities.

The main changes to the presentation of the data are limited and are:

- Clarification on the data presented: as the data from 2013/14 are collected each quarter as final, the Outturn figures are no longer presented as the total for the year will equal the sum of the four quarters.
- Forecast Outturn (the predicted end of year total) is no longer collected.
- The Data Quality report for each quarter (describing which data are not presented and the reasons why) are no longer required as the validation checks will be built into the collection system, and, as stated earlier, all received data will be published along with an accompanying Data Quality information.
- Data will be presented at CCG and NHS Area level rather than PCT due to the transfer of responsibility.
- Data by ONS Area Classification will no longer be presented due to the transfer of responsibility to CCGs.

These changes will be reflected in the Quarter 2 publication expected to be published by the Health and Social Care Information Centre on 27 November 2013. (The Quarter 2 publication will also present the data for Quarter 1 as this publication was delayed due to transitional reasons).

If you have any comments on the above they can be submitted to: lifestyles@hscic.gov.uk