



Version 1, published 21 January 2014

## **Announcement of methodological changes to ‘Use of NICE-appraised Medicines in the NHS in England - 2012, Experimental Statistics’**

This report is the fourth review of the use by the National Health Service (NHS) in England of medicines positively appraised by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE).

Previous reports have used an ‘estimate approach’ to compare estimated predicted medicine use with observed use. This is used to indicate whether medicine use is higher or lower than expected. However, due to lack of information, estimates cannot be developed for every medicine. For example it is not always possible calculate the number of eligible patients due to lack of incidence and prevalence data.

This fourth report also uses the ‘estimate approach’. Additionally a ‘variation approach’ has been used to enable a number of medicines previously excluded, due to difficulties with estimates, to be included.

The ‘variation approach’ shows the use of the medicines over time and how this use varies between Area Teams (ATs) and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). Medicine use is presented using ‘box and whisker’ chart and ‘all data points’ charts which show the variation in medicine use by ATs or CCGs. The variation approach does not allow any assessment of the level of compliance by organisations with NICE recommendations, nor does it provide a benchmark or target.

### **Further Information**

Please contact the HSCIC on 0845 00 6016 or email [enquiries@hscic.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@hscic.gov.uk).