

**STATISTICAL COMMENTARY**

**12 week Maternal Assessment, Breastfeeding Initiation & 6-8 Week Breastfeeding**

**Q2 2014/15**

**Background**

From the 1st April 2013 NHS England became responsible for undertaking Public Health Section 7A functions including screening, immunisations and wider child and maternal health. Historically key performance indicators around breastfeeding and maternal assessments were collected via PCTs in the *Integrated Performance Management Return.*

The Q1 2013/14 onward collection of 12 week risk assessment, breastfeeding Initiation and 6-8 week breastfeeding data was collected directly from maternity service providers and child health information system providers.

Data was collected from providers at general practice level to enable uptake to be monitored locally and data to be aggregated and reported at Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). We are releasing these data as experimental official statistics because they remain under development. This is in line with the UK Code of Practice for official statistics, principle 4, which defines experimental statistics as:

"New official statistics undergoing evaluation. They are published in order to involve users and stakeholders in their development..."

## Key points

This commentary presents the 12 week Maternal Assessment, Breastfeeding Initiation and 6-8 Week Breastfeeding results and data for Q2 2014/15.

### Coverage

* 138 maternity providers were identified for 12 week and breastfeeding initiation submissions. We have received data returns covering all of these providers in Q2, an uptake rate of 100%

* In Q2 2014/15 breastfeeding initiation status recorded was 74.4% of mothers initiating breastfeeding
* In Q4 2013/14 the percentage of mothers seen for full maternal assessment before 12 week and 6 days was 93.2%
* 110 Child Health Information System (CHIS) providers were identified for 6-8 week breastfeeding prevalence submissions. We have received data returns covering 105 of these providers Q2, an uptake rate of 95%
* In Q2 2014/15 the number of eligible children with no breastfeeding prevalence status recorded was 12.9%. As insufficient data passing the 95% data completeness we are unable to publish the 6-8 week breastfeeding prevalence England figure for Q2 2014/15

### 12 week risk assessment

* In England all of the Trusts passed validation\* in Q4 2013/14, the percentage seen before 12 week and 6 days ranged from 9.2% Heatherwood & Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to 835.6%\*\* The Royal Bournemouth & Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust\*\*\* and the percentage of maternities that were seen after 12 weeks and 6 days ranged from 0.0% in Airedale NHS Foundation Trust and Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust to 289.6%\*\* St George's Healthcare NHS Trust (Table 2)
* In England amongst the 205 CCGs that passed validation in Q4 2013/14, the percentage seen before 12 week and 6 days ranged from 1.8% in NHS Corby CCG to 180.3%\*\* in NHS North Tyneside CCG and the percentage of maternities that were seen after 12 weeks and 6 days ranged from 0.0% in NHS Nottingham City CCG and NHS Nottingham North & East CCGs to 228.7%\*\* in NHS South Devon & Torbay CCG (Table 4)
* Due to the re-opening of the data collection and inclusion of 2013 ONS birth file into the validation comparison data, England data has now been published for Q3 – Q4 2013/14 and Q1 – Q2 2014/15 (T2\_Trusts201314)
* In Q4 2013/14 the percentage seen before 12 week and 6 days was 93.2%, for Q4 2012/13 percentage seen before 12 weeks and 6 days was 100.9%\*\*. In 2011/12 Q4 the percentage seen before 12 week and 6 days was (95.1%), compared with 2010/11 Q4 (92.3%) and 2009/10 Q4 (87.0%) (Table 1)

*\* Note that the maternities validation flag for RN3 Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, RD1 Royal United Bath NHS Trust and RAL Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust were removed owing to the merging or transferring of maternity services therefore there was no valid historic comparison data to validate against*

*\*\* For 12 week risk assessment some recorded figures are greater than 100% of maternities. The reason for greater than 100% recording can be traced to two possible causes.*

*Firstly that the indicator definition compares bookings for mothers having assessments at a trust to the number of maternities at the point of delivery at that trust 2 quarters later. However the maternity at the point of delivery figure may be lower than the number of mothers having assessments due to mothers suffering miscarriage, women choosing to undergo a termination or women transferring to another hospital.*

*Secondly that women who live in urban areas where there are multiple hospitals they could choose to delivery at often choose to undergo assessments at more than one hospital to enable them to compare maternity service provision. As a result women may be double counted, leading to a higher ratio of assessments to deliveries.*

*\*\*\* Note that The Royal Bournemouth & Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust book women for antenatal care and also provide their postnatal care, the majority of women then birth at another trust. The reason for this is that the trust does not have a facility for high risk intrapartum care therefore all of these women go to another trust.*

### Initiation of breastfeeding

* Trust data was validated against maternity figures pulled from Hospital Episode Statistics known deliveries. 122 trusts passed data validation checks for breastfeeding initiation
* In England amongst the 122 NHS Trust that passed validation at Q2 2014/15, breastfeeding initiation ranged from 48.2% in South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust to 92.4% in West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust (Table 4)
* In England amongst the 185 CCGs that passed validation at Q2 2014/15, breastfeeding initiation ranged from 46.7% in NHS South Tees CCG to 92.2% in NHS Hounslow CCG (Table 5)
* In England the breastfeeding initiation rate for Q2 2014/15 was 74.4%. The annual percentage was 74.0% in 2013/14, 73.9% in 2012/13 and 2011/12 (74.0%) and which was slightly higher than 2010/11 (73.7%), 2009/10 (72.7%) and 2008/09 (71.7%) (Table 1)
* Due to the re-opening of the data collection and inclusion of 2013 ONS birth file into the validation comparison data, England data has now been published for Q1 – Q4 2013/14 (see revised 2013/14 publication)

### Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks

* The 6-8 week breastfeeding prevalence figures are based on the number of infants recorded by CCGs as totally or partially breastfeeding, as a percentage of all infants due a 6-8 week check
* In England the breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks was not published in Q2 2014/15 due to the number children with no recorded status of 6-8 week breastfeeding prevalence being 12.9%, greater than the validation limit of 5% of all eligible children
* In Q2 2014/15 95 CCGs failed to pass validation checks. 21 failed as the number of eligible children submitted failed to meet the -10% +20% number of expected children. 87 CCGs failed due to more than 5% of their eligible children having no breastfeeding status recorded (which includes 13 CCGs that failed both validation checks)
* Amongst the 116 CCGs that passed validation, breastfeeding prevalence as a percentage of infants due a 6-8 week check ranged from 11.9% in NHS Rotherham CCG to 81.9% in NHS City and Hackney CCG (Table 7)

### Notes

### *Methodology*

NHS England has not prescribed a specific method of collection and decisions on how to collect data have been taken locally. Each provider has been able to choose a data collection method that works best for its staff and people who use services.

***Notes to Editors***

This dataset covers the number and proportion of women seen and assessed by a healthcare professional within 12 weeks and 6 days of their maternity, the number and proportion of mothers’ who have initiated or not initiated breastfeeding and the number and proportion of infants who been fully, partially or not at all breastfed at 6-8 weeks.

***Feedback welcomed***

We welcome feedback on the content and presentation of these statistics within this Statistical Press Notice and those published on the NHS England website. If anyone has any comments on this, or any other issues regarding the data and statistics, then please email: england.dataflows@nhs.net

***Additional Information***

For media enquiries only please contact the Department of Health press office on 020 7210 5221

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