

**STATISTICAL COMMENTARY**

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

**Q4 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 Q4 2014/15.

### Coverage

* 135 maternity providers were identified for 12 week and breastfeeding initiation submissions. We have received data returns covering 133 of these providers in Q4, an uptake rate of 99%

* In England the annual OT rate for 2014/15, 74.3% of mothers were recorded as initiating breastfeeding
* In Q2 2014/15 the percentage of mothers seen for full maternal assessment before 12 weeks and 6 days was 102.8%\*
* 109 Child Health Information System (CHIS) providers were identified for the 6-8 week breastfeeding prevalence submissions. We have received data returns covering 105 of these providers Q4, an uptake rate of 96%
* In England the breastfeeding prevalence rate at 6-8 weeks for 2014/15 was 43.8% of infants due a 6-8 week check were being breastfed at 6-8 weeks\*\*

### week risk assessment

* In England amongst the 131 Trusts that passed validation\*\*\* in Q2 2014/15, the percentage seen before 12 weeks and 6 days ranged from 23.4% George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust to 493.2%\* Weston Area Health NHS Trust\*\*\*\* and the percentage of maternities that were seen after 12 weeks and 6 days ranged from 1.7% in Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust to 125.6%\* George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust (Table 3)
* In England amongst the 188 CCGs that passed validation in Q2 2014/15, the percentage seen before 12 weeks and 6 days ranged from 0.8% in NHS Corby CCG to 183.8%\* in NHS North Tyneside CCG and the percentage of maternities that were seen after 12 weeks and 6 days ranged from 0.4% in NHS Corby to 64.8% in NHS Waltham Forest CCG (Table 5)
* 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 England the Q2 2014/15 percentage seen before 12 weeks and 6 days was 102.8%\*, for Q2 2014/15 percentage seen before 12 weeks and 6 days was 95.3%. In 2012/13 Q2 the percentage seen before 12 weeks and 6 days was 96.7%, compared with 2011/12 (94.7%) and 2010/11 (92.6%) (Table 1).

*\* 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 could choose to deliver 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.*

*\*\* The coverage target for 2013/14 and 2014/15 have been reduced to 85% for England level figures only. Feedback was sought from the user perspective on lowering the threshold for the England figure. The change in quality standard for the validation check does not apply at the lower levels of geography.*

*\*\*\* Note that the maternities validation flag for RN3 Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, RD1 Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust, RAL Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust, R1K London North West Healthcare NHS Trust and RDU Frimley Health 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.*

*\*\*\*\* Note that RA3 Weston Area Health NHS Trust (WAHT) operates a shared care service where local women receive antenatal care from WAHT midwives but most deliver at units in Bristol.  This means that the number of women assessed by WAHT will always exceed the number delivering. Due to the relatively small numbers of maternities / deliveries, 1 patient can represent 1.5% to 2% of WAHT quarterly total.*

### Initiation of breastfeeding

* Trust data was validated against maternity figures pulled from Hospital Episode Statistics known deliveries. 121 trusts passed data validation checks for breastfeeding initiation
* In England amongst the 121 NHS Trust that passed validation\*\*\* at Q4 2014/15, breastfeeding initiation ranged from 47.6% in South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust to 94.3% in St George’s University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Table 4)
* In England amongst the 174 CCGs that passed validation at Q4 2014/15, breastfeeding initiation ranged from 47.3% in NHS Knowsley CCG to 93.3% in NHS Lambeth CCG and NHS Wandsworth CCG (Table 6)
* In England the annual OT rate of breastfeeding initiation for 2014/15 was 74.3%. The annual percentage was 74.0% in 2013/14, 73.9% in 2012/13 and 2011/12 (74.0%) and was slightly higher than 2010/11 (73.7%), 2009/10 (72.7%) and 2008/09 (71.7%). The Q4 2014/15 breastfeeding initiation rate was 74.3% (Table 1)

### 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 rate at 6-8 weeks for 2014/15 was 43.8%\*\*, in 2013/14 prevalence at 6-8 weeks was 45.8%, in 2012/13 prevalence at 6-8 weeks was 47.2% and in 2011/12 47.2% of infants due a 6-8 week check were being breastfed at 6-8 weeks (Table 2)
* In Q4 2014/15 106 CCGs failed to pass validation checks\*\*\*\*\*. 17 failed as the number of eligible children submitted failed to meet the -10% + 20% number of expected children. 88 CCGs failed due to more than 5% of their eligible children having no breastfeeding status recorded (which includes 12 CCGs that failed both validation checks). Two CCGs failed due to the breastfeeding prevalence rate at 6-8 weeks being higher than that of the breastfeeding initiation rate
* Amongst the 104 CCGs that passed validation\*\*\*\*\*, breastfeeding prevalence as a percentage of infants due a 6-8 week check ranged from 21.0% NHS St Helens CCG to 81.7% NHS City and Hackney CCG (Table 12)

*\*\*\*\*\* Note that one CCG did not have data submitted against and was excluded from the passed validation counts (08V NHS Tower Hamlets CCG).*

### 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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