

Gateway Reference 08541

18<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Dear Colleagues,

**RE: Launch of the Equality and Health Inequalities RightCare Pack.**

I am writing to introduce you to the newly published Equality and Health Inequalities (EHI) RightCare Pack which we have developed for each of the CCGs across England.

This is the first step on our journey to provide stronger statistical and analytics support to fulfil our commitment to ensuring that all those using the NHS have fair and equitable access to high quality services that are appropriate and in proportion to their needs. I'd like to thank all the CCG, CSU, STP and ICS staff and wider academics for their support in developing this pack and our wider analytics thinking in this area. The central team will run a number of engagement events and webinars to discuss these packs and also our approach to developing a wider set of inequalities measures to support you in ensure that all of our priority areas have an inbuilt focus on this critical issue. We would welcome your continued input as we develop the NHS's thinking.

The pack considers measures of health inequality and aims to support CCGs and health systems to identify areas of improvement in promoting equality and reducing health inequalities. Previously such analysis has not been available at CCG level.

The packs have been developed through partnership working between our NHS England Equality and Health Inequalities Team, the analytics teams in NHS England, the National RightCare Programme and a number of CCGs and universities.

The pack is based on 2016/17 data to ensure consistency with latest available year for IAPT (Improving Access to Psychology Therapies), one of our pilot programmes for these measures. On this basis we will be producing 207 packs, reflecting the number of CCGs at this time, which means that some recently merged CCGs, will receive more than one pack. As the trend for merging CCGs continues, we are looking at how we can report at STP, Borough and Ward level, to support management oversight and local implementation. The packs also complement the work of Public Health England.

**What is in the Equality and Health Inequalities RightCare Data Packs?**

Each pack contains the following information:

- a) Executive statistical summary slides providing key messages for indicators in the pack.
- b) Background as to why we should be addressing health inequalities including a slide on the national big picture.
- c) A section on inequalities in unplanned hospitalisations using data provided by the Analytical Insight and Resource Unit (AIRU) showing:
  - The CCG Improvement and Assessment Framework (IAF) health inequalities indicator 106a *The Absolute Gradient of Inequality (AGI) for unplanned hospitalisation for chronic ambulatory case sensitive conditions and urgent care sensitive conditions*;

- Comparisons of this indicator with English CCGs and demographically similar CCGs;
  - Identification of priority wards together with the top 10 conditions for each CCG (e.g. pain in throat and chest) and potential unplanned hospitalisations that might be saved if inequality were addressed;
  - CCG level differences by sex, age and ethnicity (compared to England and demographically similar CCGs) and potential unplanned hospitalisation that might be saved;
- d) A section on Increasing Access to Psychological Therapies, with consideration of differences by sex, age deprivation and ethnicity (compared to England and demographically similar CCGs);
- e) A section linking case studies, tools and resources to action planning.

We hope these Equality and Health Inequality RightCare packs will help you pinpoint areas of unwarranted variation and refocus resources on specific geographies, clinical areas and population groups. The intention of our ongoing work is to enable CCGs and health systems to target the implementation of all our national strategies simultaneously at achieving the national outcome objective and reducing health inequalities. We hope the packs will help your CCG to be more equitable, as well as to improve quality and make best use of the tax payers' pound.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Swindells  
Deputy Chief Executive  
NHS England