

Dementia Assessment and
Referral Data Collection –
Q1 2013-14

September 2013



Background

This is the first publication of the **Dementia Assessment and Referral** data collection by NHS England. It reports on the number and proportion of patients aged 75 and over admitted as an emergency for more than 72 hours who have been identified as potentially having dementia, who are appropriately assessed and, where appropriate, referred on to specialist services for the period covering Quarter 1 (April to June) in **2013/14** in England.

1.1 Policy Context

The Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN) framework for 2013/14 contains a national goal on improving dementia care – to promote the identification of patients with dementia and other causes of cognitive impairment alongside their other medical conditions, to prompt appropriate referral and follow up after they leave the hospital and to ensure that hospitals deliver high quality care to patients. This is designated as Find, Assess, Investigate and Refer (FAIR)¹.

To enable monitoring and delivery of this CQUIN goal, the **Dementia Assessment and Referral** data collection is mandatory since April 2013 for all NHS Foundation and Non-Foundation trusts providing acute care.

CQUIN allocates 60 per cent of funding for providers undertaking case finding for at least 90 per cent of patients aged 75 and over admitted as an emergency for more than 72 hours and where patients are identified as potentially having dementia ensuring that at least 90 per cent are appropriately assessed and where appropriate referred on to specialist services.

The diagnosis, treatment and care of people with dementia is also one of the Government's priority areas and NHS England is expected to demonstrate progress in these areas as set out in the mandate from the Government to the NHS England for the period April 2013 to March 2015².

1.2 How the statistics are produced

All providers of NHS funded acute services (both Foundation and Non-Foundation trusts) must complete this data collection.

¹ The CQUIN guidance can be accessed in <http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/cquin-guidance.pdf>

² Consult: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/213131/mandate.pdf

Data are collected for:

Find	A. Number of patients aged 75 and over admitted as emergency inpatients, reported as having been asked the dementia case finding question within 72 hours of admission to hospital or who have a clinical diagnosis of delirium on initial assessment or known diagnosis of dementia. B. Number of patients aged 75 and over admitted as emergency inpatients, minus exclusions. C. Percentage of all patients aged 75 and over admitted as emergency inpatients who are asked the dementia case finding question within 72 hours of admission or who have a clinical diagnosis of delirium on initial assessment or known diagnosis of dementia (calculated by dividing A by B).
Assess and Investigate	D. Number of admissions of patients aged 75 and over admitted as emergency inpatients who have scored positively on the dementia case finding question or who have a clinical diagnosis of delirium reported as having had a dementia diagnostic assessment, including investigations. E. Number of patients aged 75 and over admitted as emergency inpatients who have scored positively on the dementia case finding question or who have a clinical diagnosis of delirium. F. Percentage of all patients aged 75 and over admitted as emergency inpatients who have scored positively on the dementia case finding question or who have a clinical diagnosis of delirium and who do not fall into the exemption categories reported as having had a dementia diagnostic assessment including investigations (calculated by dividing D by E).
Refer	G. Number of all patients aged 75 and over admitted as an emergency inpatient who have had a diagnostic assessment (in which the outcome is either “positive” or “inconclusive”) who are referred for further diagnostic advice/follow up. H. Number of patients aged 75 and over who were admitted as an emergency inpatient who have undergone a diagnostic assessment (in which the outcome is either “positive” or “inconclusive”). I. Percentage of all patients aged 75 and over admitted as an emergency inpatient who have had a diagnostic assessment (for whom the outcome is either “positive” or “inconclusive”) and who are referred for further diagnostic advice/follow up (calculated by dividing G by H).

Providers must collect and submit data onto UNIFY 2 by 20 working days after the month end. The full data tables can be found at: <http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/dementia/>

Guidance on the data collection is included in the 2013/14 CQUIN guidance and can be found at: <http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/cquin-guidance.pdf>

Data are submitted and published according to the timings below:

Timing	Process
Month A (e.g. April)	Data are collected from patients in each trust for that month.
Month B (e.g. May)	Trusts submit their data monthly for the previous month (e.g. April data are submitted towards the end of May).
Month C (e.g. June)	Data for month A (April) are quality assured and made available to UNIFY users after the 22 nd of the month (e.g. April data are available after the 22 nd of June).
Month D (e.g. July)	Data for month A (April) are published in the NHS England website in the beginning of the month (e.g. April data are published in early July)
Early every September, December, March, June	Publication of reports for Quarters 1, 2, 3 and 4 respectively, on the NHS England website

Findings

Number of data returns

- The number of data returns submitted by NHS providers of acute funded care reached 142 by the end of Q1 2013/14, of which 89 were from Foundation Trusts and 53 from Non-Foundation Trusts, slightly up from 138 providers in April 2013 (86 from Foundation Trusts and 52 from Non-Foundation Trusts).

Nil returns

- Providers are required to provide information based on a census of patients (that is, all patients). Providers who submit data based on a sample or audit of patients are not included in the figures below, and are classed as a 'nil return'. Providers who did not have any admissions and cases in a particular month are also classed as a 'nil return'.

Proportion of admitted patients identified as having dementia

- Over the period Q1 2013/14, providers reported around 163,000 emergency admissions for adults aged 75 and over with a length of stay over 72 hours. Of these admissions, 71% of these were asked the dementia case finding question (see Table 1) – this percentage is higher for Foundation Trusts (75%) than for Non-Foundation Trusts (66%).

Proportion of admitted patients having dementia who are appropriately assessed

- In Q1 2013/14, 86% of emergency admissions of patients aged 75 and over who scored positively on the dementia case finding question were reported as having undergone a dementia diagnostic assessment (see Table 1). This percentage is similar for Foundation Trusts (86%) and Non-Foundation Trusts (85%).

Proportion of appropriately assessed patients referred on to specialist services

- In Q1 2013/14, 87% of emergency admissions of patients aged 75 and over who had a diagnostic assessment (for whom the outcome is either “positive” or “inconclusive”) were referred for further diagnostic advice/follow up (see Table 1). This percentage is higher for Foundation Trusts (91%) than for Non-Foundation Trusts (82%).

Table 1. FAIR cases (cases identified, diagnosed and referred) Q1 (April-June) 2013/14, England

		All reporting trusts	NHS Foundation Trusts	NHS Non-Foundation Trusts
A	Number of emergency admissions asked the dementia case finding question	115,973	69,364	46,609
B	Number of emergency admissions with length of stay >72h	162,831	92,698	70,133
C= A/B	Percentage of the above emergency admissions in which patients were asked the dementia case finding question	71%	75%	66%
D	Number of emergency admissions that scored positively on the case finding question reported as having had a dementia diagnostic assessment	22,480	12,865	9,615
E	Number of emergency admissions that scored positively on the case finding question	26,267	14,995	11,272
F= D/E	Percentage of emergency admissions of patients who scored positively on the case finding question reported as having had a dementia diagnostic assessment	86%	86%	85%
G	Number of emergency admissions that had a diagnostic assessment and were then referred for further diagnostic advice/follow up.	9,353	5,744	3,609
H	Number of emergency admissions that underwent a diagnostic assessment	10,700	6,304	4,396
I= G/H	Percentage of emergency admissions with a diagnostic assessment and referred for further diagnostic advice/follow up.	87%	91%	82%

Proportion of trusts above and below 90% of FAIR cases

- In Q1 2013/14, 56% of the trusts identified cases of dementia, 69% carried out diagnoses and 75% referred cases for further diagnostic in 90% or over of their emergency admissions. For cases identified and diagnosed, these proportions are slightly higher for Foundation Trusts than for Non-Foundation trusts; for cases referred, the proportions are similar– see table 2.
- Over the period, 59 trusts reached 90% in all the measures, of which 38 are Foundation Trusts and 21 are Non-Foundation Trusts.

Table 2. Trusts reporting above and below 90% of FAIR cases (cases identified, diagnosed and referred), Q1 2013/14, England

	All trusts		NHS Foundation Trusts		NHS Non-Foundation Trusts	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Cases identified						
Between 85%-90%	6	5%	5	7%	1	2%
Below 90%	55	44%	31	41%	24	49%
90% and above	69	56%	44	59%	25	51%
Cases diagnosed						
Between 85%-90%	6	5%	4	5%	2	4%
Below 90%	38	31%	22	29%	16	33%
90% and above	86	69%	53	71%	33	67%
Cases referred						
Between 85%-90%	6	5%	5	7%	1	2%
Below 90%	31	25%	19	25%	12	24%
90% and above	93	75%	56	75%	37	76%

Note: Trusts that did not submit data for all the indicators are excluded from the table.

Additional Information

Data for individual organisations are available at:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/dementia/>

For press enquiries please e-mail the NHS England media team at

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