

**STATISTICAL COMMENTARY**  
**12 Week Maternal Assessment & Breastfeeding Initiation**  
**Q3 2016/17**

## **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 had been collected via Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in the *Integrated Performance Management Return*.

The Q1 2013/14 onward collection of 12 week risk assessment and breastfeeding initiation data were collected directly from maternity service providers and child health information system providers.

Data were 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 and Breastfeeding Initiation results and data for Q3 2016/17.

## **Coverage**

- 135\* maternity providers were expected to submit data for Q3 2016/17, with 126 maternity providers submitting data and 1 provider submitting a zero (0) return. The level of maternity provider submissions at Q3 2016/17 was 93%.
- In Q3 2016/17 breastfeeding initiation status recorded was 72.9% of mothers initiating breastfeeding
- In Q1 2016/17 the percentage of mothers seen for full maternal assessment before 12 weeks and 6 days was 93.1%

## **12 week risk assessment**

- In England, amongst the 116 Trusts that passed validation in Q1 2016/17, the percentage seen before 12 weeks and 6 days ranged from 0.1% North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust to 775%\*\* The Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. The percentage of maternities that were seen after 12 weeks and 6 days ranged from

0% in North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust to 135.6%\*\* St George's University NHS Foundation Trust (Table 2).

- In England, amongst the 174 CCGs that passed validation in Q1 2016/17, the percentage seen before 12 week and 6 days ranged from 0.4% in Corby CCG to 163.2%\*\* in North Tyneside CCG. The percentage of maternities that were seen after 12 weeks and 6 days ranged from 0% in East Staffordshire CCG to 83.1% in Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford CCG (Table 3).
- In England, the Q1 2016/17 percentage seen before 12 weeks and 6 days was 93.1%, for Q4 2015/16 percentage seen before 12 weeks and 6 days was 96.3% (Table 1).

\* Note that 6 providers have been excluded from validation, see Data Quality page for further information. Please see Data Quality notes for trust specific explanations.

\*\* 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.*

*Note the coverage target for 2013/14 onwards has 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.*

## **Initiation of breastfeeding**

- Trust data was validated against maternity figures pulled from Hospital Episode Statistics known deliveries. 118 trusts passed data validation checks for breastfeeding initiation
- In England amongst the 118 Trusts that passed validation, breastfeeding initiation ranged from 43% Heart Of England NHS Foundation Trust to 94.2% University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Table 2).
- In England amongst the 174 CCGs that passed validation in Q3, breastfeeding initiation ranged from 45.4% in NHS Hartlepool and Stockton-On-Tees CCG to 92.8% in NHS City and Hackney CCG (Table 3).
- In England the Q3 2016/17 breastfeeding initiation rate was 72.9%. The annual percentage was 74.3% in 2014/15, 74.0% in 2013/14, 73.9% in 2012/13 and 74.0% in 2011/12 (Table 1).

## **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 and the number and proportion of mothers' who have initiated or not initiated breastfeeding.

The collection of 6-8 week breastfeeding data has transferred to Public Health England. Please see <http://www.chimat.org.uk/transfer> for further information or email [interimreporting@phe.gov.uk](mailto:interimreporting@phe.gov.uk)

### ***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:

PH-DataFlows@ardengemcsu.nhs.uk

### ***Additional Information***

For any enquiries relating to the statistics and to offer feedback on the report, please contact: Arden & Greater East Midlands Commissioning Support Unit National Direct Commissioning Team on behalf of NHS England

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