

STATISTICAL COMMENTARY

12 Week Maternal Assessment & Breastfeeding Initiation

Q4 2015/16

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 Q4 2015/16.

Coverage

- 135* maternity providers were identified for 12 week and breastfeeding initiation submissions. We have received data returns covering 126 of these providers in Q4, an uptake rate of 93%.
- The England figure for Q4 2015/16 breastfeeding initiation and 12 week risk assessment failed to meet the data validation criteria and therefore the percentage is excluded from the Official Statistics publications. The England Q4 2015/16 numerator and denominator are still published (see definitions sheet for details).

12 week risk assessment

- In England, amongst the 120 Trusts that passed validation in Q2 2015/16, the percentage seen before 12 weeks and 6 days ranged from 0.0% Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to 690.0%** Weston Area Health NHS Trust. The percentage of maternities that were seen after 12 weeks and 6 days ranged from 0.0% in Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to 92.0% Weston Area Health NHS Trust (Table 2).
- In England, amongst the 167 CCGs that passed validation in Q2 2015/16, the percentage seen before 12 week and 6 days ranged from 1.7% in Greater Preston CCG to 155.3%** in North Tyneside CCG and South Lincolnshire CCG. The percentage of maternities that were

seen after 12 weeks and 6 days ranged from 0.7% in Greater Preston CCG to 76.4% in Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford CCG (Table 3).

* 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. 120 trusts passed data validation checks for breastfeeding initiation.
- In England amongst the 120 Trusts that passed validation, breastfeeding initiation ranged from 30.2% Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust to 93.0% King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (Table 2).
- In England amongst the 171 CCGs that passed validation in Q4, breastfeeding initiation ranged from 43.2% in NHS Knowsley CCG to 93.4% in NHS Lambeth CCG (Table 3).

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

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:
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Additional Information

For any enquiries relating to the statistics and to offer feedback on the report, please contact:
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