

Dementia Assessment and
Referral Data Collection –
Quarter 3 2013/14

March 2014



Background

The **Dementia Assessment and Referral** data collection by NHS England 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. The report now published covers Quarter 3 2013/14 (October to December 2013) 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 or who are 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).
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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.
Month D (e.g. July)	Data for month A (April) are published in the NHS England website and in UNIFY 2.0 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 145 by December 2013, that is, by the end of Q3 2013/14. Of this total, 91 were from Foundation Trusts and 54 from Non-Foundation Trusts. These figures include nil returns and are a slight increase from 144 providers in Q2 2013/14 (91 from Foundation Trusts and 53 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'. There were 4 nil returns on December 2013, the end of Quarter 3 2013/14.

Proportion of admitted patients identified as having dementia

- The number of emergency admissions for adults aged 75 and over with a length of stay over 72 hours increased to around 170,000 in Q3 2013/14 from around 157,000 in Q2 2013/14 and the percentage of these admissions asked the dementia case finding question increased by 3 percentage points to 82% in Q3 2013/14 from 79% in Q2 2013/14 (see Table 1).
- This percentage is slightly higher for Foundation Trusts (82%) than for Non-Foundation Trusts (80%) in Q3 2013/14 (see Table 2) but greater than in Q2 2013/14 (80% for Foundation Trusts and 78% for Non-Foundation Trusts).
- The monthly data shows that the percentage of cases initially assessed for potential dementia increased from 70% in April 2013 to 81% in December 2013, an average monthly increase of 2% over the period (see Figure 1).

Proportion of admitted patients having dementia who are appropriately assessed

- In Q3 2013/14, 89% 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), the same percentage as in Q2 2013/14.
- This percentage is slightly lower for Foundation Trusts (88%) than Non-Foundation Trusts (91%) – see Table 2. This pattern is similar to the one in Q2 2013/14 with 89% for Foundation Trusts and 90% for Non-Foundation Trusts.
- The monthly data shows that, of the admitted patients initially assessed and found as potentially having dementia, the percentage who had a further assessment increased from 83% in April 2013 to 90% in December 2013, an average monthly increase of 1% over the period (see Figure 1).

Proportion of appropriately assessed patients referred on to specialist services

- In Q3 2013/14, 88% 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, 3 percentage points lower than 91% in Q2 2013/14 (see Table 1).
- This percentage is higher for Foundation Trusts (95%) than for Non-Foundation Trusts (80%) – see Table 2. Again, this pattern is similar to the one in Q2 2013/14 (93% for Foundation Trusts and 88% for Non-Foundation Trusts).
- The monthly data shows that, of the patients who had a further assessment and for whom the outcome was either “positive” or “inconclusive”, the percentage referred on to specialist services did not change much from April 2013 (85%) to December 2013 (88%) – see Figure 1.

Table 1. FAIR cases (cases identified, diagnosed and referred) Q2 2013/14 (July-September 2013) and Q3 2013/14 (October-December 2013), England

		Q2 2013/14	Q3 2013/14
A	Number of emergency admissions asked the dementia case finding question	124,061	138,169
B	Number of emergency admissions with length of stay >72h	156,986	169,530
C= A/B	Percentage of the above emergency admissions in which patients were asked the dementia case finding question	79%	82%
D	Number of emergency admissions that scored positively on the case finding question reported as having had a dementia diagnostic assessment	24,212	26,427
E	Number of emergency admissions that scored positively on the case finding question	27,167	29,584
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	89%	89%

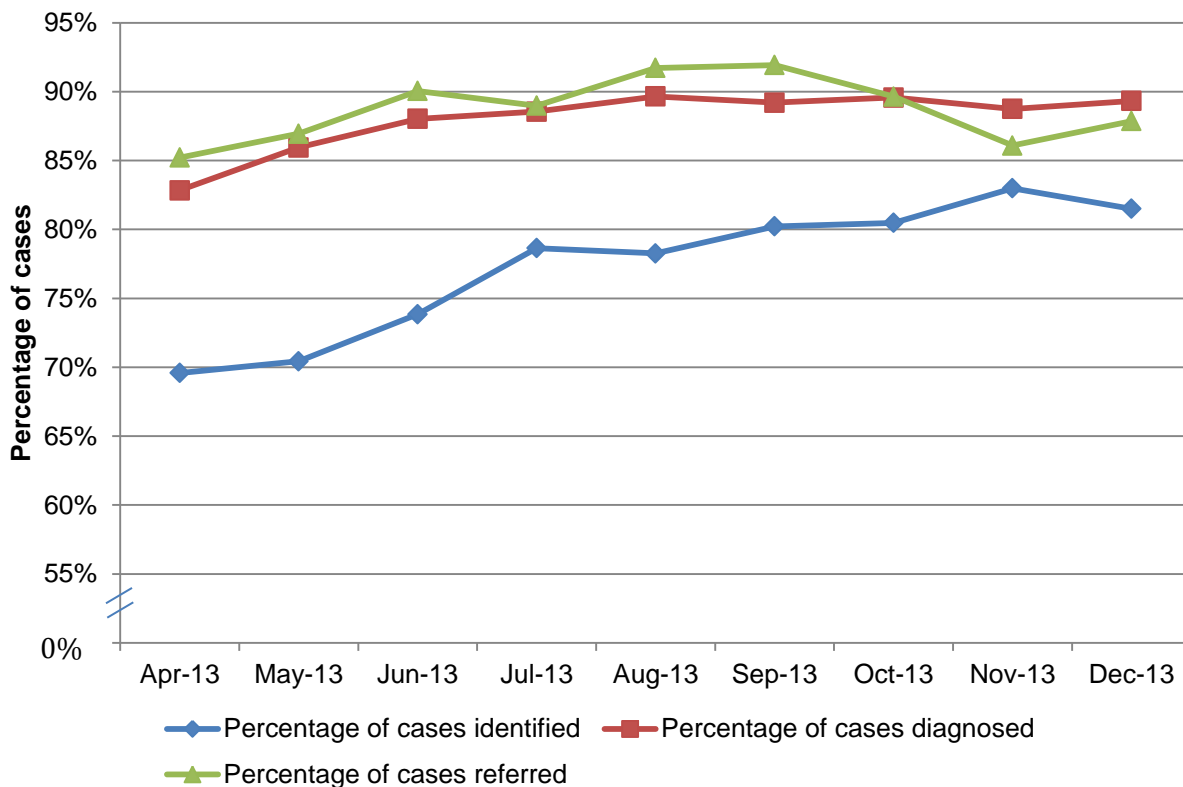
Table 1 (cont.)

G	Number of emergency admissions that had a diagnostic assessment and were then referred for further diagnostic advice/follow up.	11,110	12,058
H	Number of emergency admissions that underwent a diagnostic assessment	12,228	13,723
I= G/H	Percentage of emergency admissions with a diagnostic assessment and referred for further diagnostic advice/follow up.	91%	88%

Table 2. FAIR cases (cases identified, diagnosed and referred) Q3 2013/14 (October-December 2013) by type of trust, England

		NHS Foundation Trusts	NHS Non-Foundation Trusts
A	Number of emergency admissions asked the dementia case finding question	80,292	57,877
B	Number of emergency admissions with length of stay >72h	97,431	72,099
C= A/B	Percentage of the above emergency admissions in which patients were asked the dementia case finding question	82%	80%
D	Number of emergency admissions that scored positively on the case finding question reported as having had a dementia diagnostic assessment	14,364	12,063
E	Number of emergency admissions that scored positively on the case finding question	16,351	13,233
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	88%	91%
G	Number of emergency admissions that had a diagnostic assessment and were then referred for further diagnostic advice/follow up.	6,786	5,272
H	Number of emergency admissions that underwent a diagnostic assessment	7,142	6,581
I= G/H	Percentage of emergency admissions with a diagnostic assessment and referred for further diagnostic advice/follow up.	95%	80%

Figure 1. FAIR cases (cases identified, diagnosed and referred), April – December 2013, England



Proportion of trusts above and below 90% of FAIR cases

- The percentages of trusts in Q3 2013/14 achieving 90% or over of their emergency admissions for these measures were (see Table 3):
 - 73 trusts achieved 90% in all three measures, an increase from 67 trusts in Q2 2013/14;
 - 61% of the trusts carried out initial assessments for cases of dementia, a slight increase from 57% in Q2 2013/14;
 - 71% carried out further diagnoses, an increase from 65% in Q2 2013/14;
 - 74% referred cases on to specialist services, an increase from 68% in Q2 2013/14.
- The monthly data shows that the number of trusts achieving at least 90% in all three measures has increased from 56 in April 2013 to 72 in December 2013, an average monthly increase of 3%.

Table 3. Trusts reporting above and below 90% of FAIR cases (cases identified, diagnosed and referred), Q3 2013/14, England

	All trusts		NHS Foundation Trusts		NHS Non-Foundation Trusts	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Cases identified						
Between 85%-90%	9	6%	6	7%	3	6%
Below 90%	56	39%	34	38%	22	42%
90% and above	86	61%	55	62%	31	58%
Cases diagnosed						
Between 85%-90%	5	4%	2	2%	3	6%
Below 90%	33	23%	20	22%	13	25%
90% and above	101	71%	61	69%	40	75%
Cases referred						
Between 85%-90%	4	3%	3	3%	1	2%
Below 90%	27	19%	16	18%	11	21%
90% and above	105	74%	63	71%	42	79%

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 nhs.cb.media@nhs.net or call **0113 825 0958 / 0113 825 0959**

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