**Statistical Note**

**Ambulance Systems Indicators up to 30 April 2014 and**

**Ambulance Clinical Outcomes up to 31 January 2014**

**Main findings – Ambulance Systems Indicators April 2014**

* + The proportion of **Category A (Red 1[[1]](#footnote-1))** calls resulting in an emergency response arriving within 8 minutes was **75.2**% nationally, was more than the expected standard of 75%. However, three Ambulance Service Trusts did not meet this standard; North East, Yorkshire and East of England.
	+ The proportion of **Category A (Red 2)** calls resulting in an emergency response arriving within 8 minutes was **73.6**% nationally, was less than the expected standard of 75%. Five Trusts did not meet this standard; North East, Yorkshire, East of England, London and Isle of Wight.
	+ The national 19 minute response time performance for Category A calls this month of **95.8%** and so the national standard of 95% was achieved this month. Only East of England Ambulance Service Trust failed to achieve the standard for 95% of patients receiving an ambulance within 19 minutes.
	+ The total number of **emergency calls** presented to switchboard this month was **704,836**.
	+ In April 2014, there were **387,465 emergency journeys** to a Type 1 or 2 A&E. Due to a change in definitions this is not comparable to journeys pre-April 2013, as now the number of journeys recorded only counts the number of transports to Type 1 or 2 A&E rather than to any destination as previously was the case.

Detailed tables of all ambulance Systems Indicators and Clinical Outcomes data are available at:

[www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/ambulance-quality-indicators/ambulance-quality-indicators-data-2014-15/](http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/ambulance-quality-indicators/ambulance-quality-indicators-data-2014-15/)

**Table 1: April 2014 Systems Indicators trust averages and extremes**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Indicator** | **All England** | **Lowest Trust** | **Highest Trust** |
| Category A Red 1: 8 minute response | 75.2% | 69.1% | \* 81.6% |
| Category A Red 2: 8 minute response | 73.6% | 61.4% | 78.4% |
| Category A: 19 minute response | 95.8% | 91.0% | 97.2% |
| Calls abandoned before being answered | 1.2% | 0.1% | 3.4% |
| Calls resolved through telephone assessment | 6.8% | 3.4% | 11.0% |
| Calls resolved without transport to Type 1 or Type 2 A&E | 36.2% | 26.4% | 50.6% |
| Recontact rate following discharge by telephone advice | 8.5% | 1.4% | 16.6% |
| Recontact rate following face-to-face treatment at scene | 4.9% | 1.9% | 7.0% |
| Number of emergency journeys | 387,465 |  |  |

\* Due to its small size, performance on the Isle of Wight tends to vary more than other Trusts. If the Isle of Wight has the lowest or highest value, Table 1 shows the second lowest or highest value, but with an asterisk to show that the Isle of Wight is more extreme.

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**Main Findings – Ambulance Clinical Outcomes January 2014**

* + For patients who had an **out-of-hospital cardiac arrest**, where ambulance staff commenced/continued resuscitation, **23.8**% had a return of spontaneous circulation (**ROSC**) on arrival at hospital. For the sub-group of these patients that fulfilled the criteria for being in the **Utstein comparator** group, this proportion was **44.8%**.
	+ For patients who had an **out-of-hospital cardiac** arrest and where the outcome is known, the proportion of patients who were subsequently **discharged from hospital alive** was **6.7%**. For the Utstein comparator group, this proportion was **23.1**%.
	+ Of patients with an acute **ST-Elevation myocardial infarction** (**STEMI**), and receiving primary angioplasty, **87.4%** received this within 150 minutes of the call being connected to the ambulance service. Of all patients with an acute STEMI, **78.5**% received the **appropriate care bundle**.
	+ Of Face Arm Speech Test (**FAST) positive** patients potentially eligible for stroke thrombolysis, 62.2% arriving at a **hyperaccute stroke unit within 60 minutes.** Of suspected stroke patients that were assessed face to face, **96.5%** received the **appropriate care bundle**.

**Table 2: January 2014 Clinical Outcomes trust averages and extremes**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Indicator** | **All England** | **Lowest Trust** | **Highest Trust** |
| **Return of spontaneous circulation:** |   |   |   |
|  | All patients | 23.8% | \* 15.6% | 30.1% |
| † | Utstein group | 44.8% | 26.3% | 66.7% |
| **Survival to discharge following cardiac arrest:** |
|  | All patients | 6.7% | 5.1% | \* 11.6% |
| † | Utstein group | 23.1% | 14.8% | \* 35.0% |
| **Outcome from acute STEMI:** |  |  |  |
| † | Angioplasty within 150 minutes | 87.4% | 79.7% | 95.3% |
| † | Received appropriate care bundle | 78.5% | 69.3% | 89.1% |
| **Outcome from stroke:** |  |  |  |
|  | Thrombolysis in 60 minutes | 62.2% | 39.7% | 73.2% |
|  | Received appropriate care bundle | 96.5% | 93.2% | \* 99.5% |

† Shows an indicator where several trusts have fewer than 100 patients to calculate a percentage out of, and indicators consequently have large variations.

\* Due to its small size, performance on the Isle of Wight tends to vary more than other Trusts. If the Isle of Wight has the lowest or highest value, Table 2 shows the second lowest or highest value, but with an asterisk to show that the Isle of Wight is more extreme.



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**ANNEX**

**Ambulance Quality Indicators: Overview**

The Ambulance Quality Indicators data is an aggregate data collection collected from the 11 Ambulance Trusts in England each month. The collection is divided into two complimentary parts, Systems Indicators (AmbSYS) and Clinical Outcomes (AmbCO).

The indicators that make up the Ambulance Systems Indicators relate to the initial 999 call, and as such cover indicators such as the 8 minute response time for Category A calls (Red 1 and 2) and the number of emergency journeys.

Clinical Outcomes data covers a range of key clinical indicators, and corresponding performance by ambulance trust, such as survival to discharge following cardiac arrest. Clinical Outcomes performance is published on a 3 month lag relative to the Systems Indicators to allow time for patient outcomes to be resolved.

With the exception of the 8-minute response time standard and the 19-minute transportation standard for Category A (immediately life-threatening) calls, no thresholds to denote “poor” care have been set for these indicators. Instead, the data on the indicators will be used to reduce variation in performance across trusts (where clinically appropriate) and drive continuous improvement in patient outcomes over time.

**Ambulance Quality Indicators: Key Terms**

**Category A Calls**

This is a call where the patient is presenting a condition which is serious and life threatening, and where an immediate emergency response is required. For Category A calls, an emergency response should arrive at the scene of the incident within 8 minutes on at least 75% of cases.

These calls are further sub-divided into Red 1 and Red 2 based on the level of urgency of the incident. Due to differences in clock start definitions for the different call types it is not possible to aggregate performance of Red 1 and 2 into a total Category A performance.

**Category A Red 1**

A sub-group of all Category A calls where the call comes from a patient who is presenting conditions which may be immediately life threatening, and where a response is the most time critical.

**Category A Red 2**

A sub-group of all Category A calls where the call comes from a patient who is presenting a serious condition which may be life threatening, but may be less time critical than a Red 1 call.

**Emergency Journey**

An emergency or urgent incident that results in a patient being transported to a Type 1 & 2 A&E.

**Emergency Call**

The number of emergency and urgent calls presented to switchboard. This does include calls passed manually from 111 as requiring an ambulance response, however this definition does not include calls that have been passed electronically from 111.

**Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC)**

The proportion of patients who have had a return of spontaneous circulation on arrival at hospital. Here patients refers to those who have had resuscitation (either Advanced or Basic Life Support) commenced/continued by the ambulance service following an out-of hospital cardiac arrest.

**Utstein Comparator Group**

The Utstein comparator group is a sub-group for the above ROSC indicator. This refers to patients who had resuscitation (Advanced or Basic Life Support) commenced/continued by the ambulance service following an out of hospital cardiac arrest of presumed cardiac origin, where the arrest was bystander witnessed and the initial rhythm was Ventricular Fibrillation or Ventricular Tachycardia.

For full details of each indicator and definition please consult the AQI technical guidance document at:

[www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/ambulance-quality-indicators/](http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/ambulance-quality-indicators/)

**Clinical Dashboards**

The Ambulance Quality Indicators continue to be published in a clinical care dashboard in line with recommendations from the National Ambulance Director and the National Clinical Director for Urgent and Emergency Care. One of the aims of the dashboard is to use statistical process control to indicate whether variation in performance reflects underlying change or merely natural variance, which is unavoidable even when a health system is performing well.

These statistical process control measures will take at least seven months’ worth of data to be reliable, but they will help ensure that performance changes over time are seen in the proper clinical context. Dashboards containing data for April 2011 to December 2013 have already been published on several ambulance trust websites.

**Revision timetable**

Future revisions will be made on a six-monthly cycle. Revisions to previous month’s data are made in line with the Department of Health’s revisions protocol for performance monitoring data: [www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/code-compliance/](http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/code-compliance/)

**Previous Revisions**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2 May 2014 | AmbSYS April 2013 to February 2014 |
| 7 March 2014 | AmbCO April 2013 to September 2013 |
| 1 November 2013 | AmbSYS April 2013 to August 2013 |
| 2 August 2013 | AmbCO April 2012 to March 2013 |
| 3 May 2013 | AmbSYS April 2012 to March 2013 |
| 1 February 2013 | AmbCO April 2012 to August 2012 |
| 11 January 2013 | AmbSYS April 2012 to October 2012 |
| 11 January 2013 | AmbSYS April 2011 to March 2012 |
| 31 August 2012 | AmbCO April 2011 to March 2012 |

**Related Statistics**

The total number of category A and category B calls made to ambulance trusts in England, and of these how many were responded to within 8 minutes (category A) or 19 minutes (category B), and the number of urgent and emergency journeys, were previously collected in Weekly Situation Reports. The collection also included data on instances of delayed handover to A&E staff. Data from 8 November 2010 to 29 May 2011 are at:

[http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130107105354/http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/Performancedataandstatistics/WeeklySituationReports/DH\_128506](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130107105354/http%3A/www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/Performancedataandstatistics/WeeklySituationReports/DH_128506)

Performance statistics on ambulance services in other countries of the UK can be found at:

Wales: <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/health2012/120307/?lang=en>

Scotland: [www.scottishambulance.com/Performance](http://www.scottishambulance.com/Performance)

Northern Ireland: [www.niamb.co.uk/docs/corporate\_info.html](http://www.niamb.co.uk/docs/corporate_info.html)

**Additional Information**

For press enquiries, please contact the NHS England press office on 0113 825 0958 or nhsengland.media@nhs.net.

The Government Statistical Service (GSS) statistician responsible for producing these data is:

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1. Red 1 calls are the most time critical, and cover cardiac arrest patients who are not breathing and do not have a pulse, and other severe conditions such as airway obstruction. Red 2 calls are serious, but less immediately time critical, and cover conditions such as stroke and fits. [www.gov.uk/government/news/changes-to-ambulance-response-time-categories](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/changes-to-ambulance-response-time-categories) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)