

Dementia Assessment and  
Referral Data Collection –  
Quarter 1 2014/15

3 September 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 1 2014/15 (April to June 2014) in England.

The Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN) framework for 2014/15 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)<sup>1</sup>.

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 2015<sup>2</sup>.

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

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<sup>1</sup> The CQUIN guidance can be accessed in <http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2013/09/CQUIN-Guidance-2014-15-PDF-751KB.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Consult: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/213131/mandate.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/213131/mandate.pdf)

The data collection asks for the following items of information:

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**Find**

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- 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).

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**Assess and Investigate**

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- 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).

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**Refer**

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- 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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### Key findings

- 92 trusts achieved at least 90% in all three measures, an increase of 7 trusts from 85 trusts in Quarter 4 2013-14.
- 86% of admitted patients were initially assessed for potential dementia in Quarter 1 2014-15, an increase of 2 percentage points from 84% in Quarter 4 2013-14.
- Of the patients initially assessed and found as potentially having dementia, 92% were further assessed in Quarter 1 2014-15, an increase of 2 percentage points from 90% in Quarter 4 2013-14.
- Of the patients who were further assessed and in which the outcome was either positive or inconclusive, 94% were referred on to specialist services in Quarter 1 2014-15, an increase of 4 percentage points from 90% in Quarter 4 2013-14.

## Findings

### *Number of data returns*

- The number of data returns submitted by NHS providers of acute funded care was 152 in April, May and June 2014, respectively, an increase from 148 providers in March 2014, that is, by the end of Quarter 4 2013/14.
- In June 2014, that is, by the end of Quarter 1 2014/15, 95 were from Foundation Trusts and 57 from Non-Foundation Trusts, a pattern similar to the one in Quarter 4 2013-14 (93 from Foundation Trusts and 55 from Non-Foundation Trusts). These figures include nil returns.

### *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 in April, and 5 nil returns in May and 5 in June 2014.

### *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 173,000 in Quarter 1 2014/15 from around 172,000 in Quarter 4 2013/14 and the percentage of these admissions asked the dementia case finding question increased by 2 percentage points to 86% in Quarter 1 2014/15 from 84% in Quarter 4 2013/14 (see Table 1).
- This percentage is higher for Foundation Trusts (88%) than for Non-Foundation Trusts (84%) in Quarter 1 2014/15 (see Table 2) and also higher than in Quarter 4 2013/14 (86% for Foundation Trusts and 81% for Non-Foundation Trusts).
- From April 2013 to June 2014, using the latest monthly data available, the percentage of cases initially assessed for potential dementia increased from 70% in April 2013 to 87% in June 2014, an average monthly increase of 1.2 percentage points over the period (see Figure 1).

### *Proportion of admitted patients having dementia who are appropriately assessed*

- In Quarter 1 2014/15, 92% 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), an increase of 2 percentage points from 90% in Quarter 4 2013/14.
- This percentage is higher for Foundation Trusts (94%) than Non-Foundation Trusts (90%) in Quarter 1 2014/15 – see Table 2. This pattern is slightly different from that in Quarter 4 2013/14 when values were similar for both types of trusts (90% for Foundation Trusts and 91% for Non-Foundation Trusts).
- From April 2013 to June 2014, using the latest monthly data available, of the admitted patients initially assessed and found as potentially having dementia, the percentage having a further

assessment increased from 83% in April 2013 to 93% in June 2014, an average monthly increase of 0.7 percentage points over the period (see Figure 1).

*Proportion of appropriately assessed patients referred on to specialist services*

- In Quarter 1 2014/15, 94% 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, 4 percentage points higher than 90% in Quarter 4 2013/14 (see Table 1).
- This percentage is higher for Foundation Trusts (97%) than for Non-Foundation Trusts (89%) – see Table 2. This pattern is similar to that in Quarter 4 2013/14 – 95% for Foundation Trusts and 85% for Non-Foundation Trusts.
- From April 2013 to June 2014, using the latest monthly data available, 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 increased from 87% in April 2013 to 96% in June 2014 – an average monthly increase of 0.7 percentage points (see Figure 1).

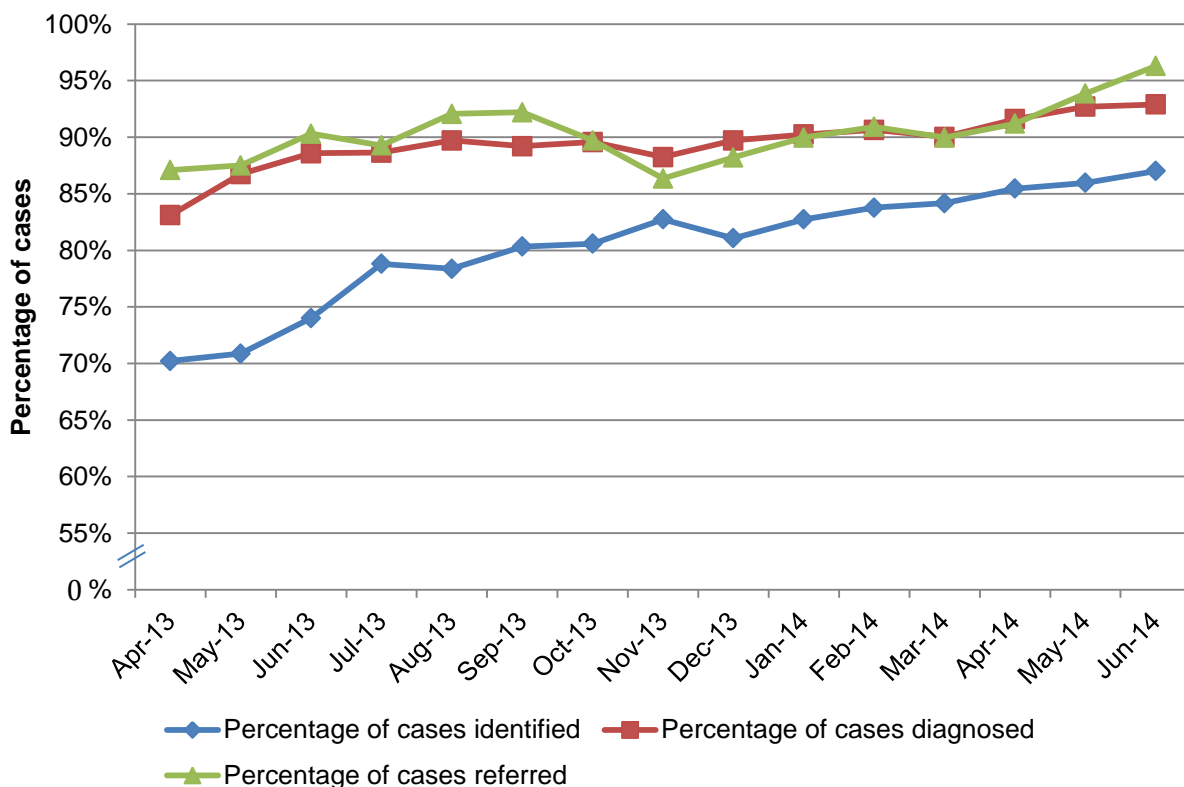
Table 1. FAIR cases (cases identified, diagnosed and referred) Q4 2013/14 (January-March 2014) and Q1 2014/15 (April-June 2014), England

		Q4 2013/14	Q1 2014/15
A	Number of emergency admissions asked the dementia case finding question	143,550	148,914
B	Number of emergency admissions with length of stay >72h	171,840	172,878
<b>C=</b>	<b>Percentage of the above emergency admissions in which</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>86%</b>
<b>A/B</b>	<b>patients were asked the dementia case finding question</b>		
D	Number of emergency admissions that scored positively on the case finding question reported as having had a dementia diagnostic assessment	29,035	29,293
E	Number of emergency admissions that scored positively on the case finding question	32,157	31,702
<b>F=</b>	<b>Percentage of emergency admissions of patients who scored</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>92%</b>
<b>D/E</b>	<b>positively on the case finding question reported as having had a dementia diagnostic assessment</b>		
G	Number of emergency admissions that had a diagnostic assessment and were then referred for further diagnostic advice/follow up.	13,238	13,309
H	Number of emergency admissions that underwent a diagnostic assessment	14,665	14,202
<b>I=</b>	<b>Percentage of emergency admissions with a diagnostic</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>94%</b>
<b>G/H</b>	<b>assessment and referred for further diagnostic advice/follow up.</b>		

Table 2. FAIR cases (cases identified, diagnosed and referred) Q1 2014/15 (April-June 2014) by type of trust, England

		NHS Foundation Trusts	NHS Non-Foundation Trusts
A	Number of emergency admissions asked the dementia case finding question	87,679	61,235
B	Number of emergency admissions with length of stay >72h	99,870	73,008
<b>C= A/B</b>	<b>Percentage of the above emergency admissions in which patients were asked the dementia case finding question</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>84%</b>
D	Number of emergency admissions that scored positively on the case finding question reported as having had a dementia diagnostic assessment	16,855	12,438
E	Number of emergency admissions that scored positively on the case finding question	17,853	13,849
<b>F= D/E</b>	<b>Percentage of emergency admissions of patients who scored positively on the case finding question reported as having had a dementia diagnostic assessment</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>90%</b>
G	Number of emergency admissions that had a diagnostic assessment and were then referred for further diagnostic advice/follow up.	8,135	5,174
H	Number of emergency admissions that underwent a diagnostic assessment	8,408	5,794
<b>I= G/H</b>	<b>Percentage of emergency admissions with a diagnostic assessment and referred for further diagnostic advice/follow up.</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>89%</b>

Figure 1. FAIR cases (cases identified, diagnosed and referred), April 2013 – June 2014, England



*Proportion of trusts above and below 90% of FAIR cases*

- The percentages of trusts in Quarter 1 2014/15 achieving 90% or over of their emergency admissions for these measures were (see Table 3):
  - 69% of the trusts carried out initial assessments for cases of dementia, an increase from 66% in Q4 2013/14;
  - 79% carried out further diagnoses, an increase from 76% in Q4 2013/14;
  - 80% referred cases on to specialist services, an increase from 79% in Q4 2013/14.
- 92 trusts achieved 90% in all three measures, an increase from 85 trusts in Q4 2013/14;
- From April 2013 to June 2014, using the latest monthly data available, the number of trusts achieving at least 90% in all three measures has increased from 56 in April 2013 to 89 in June 2014, an average monthly increase of 2.4 trusts.

Table 3. Trusts reporting above and below 90% of FAIR cases (cases identified, diagnosed and referred), Q1 2014/15, England

	All trusts		NHS Foundation Trusts		NHS Non-Foundation Trusts	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Cases identified</b>						
Between 85%-90%	11	7.4%	8	8.6%	3	5.4%
Below 90%	46	30.9%	27	29.0%	19	33.9%
90% and above	103	<b>69.1%</b>	66	<b>71.0%</b>	37	<b>66.1%</b>
<b>Cases diagnosed</b>						
Between 85%-90%	5	3.4%	1	1.1%	4	7.1%
Below 90%	27	18.1%	13	14.0%	14	25.0%
90% and above	117	<b>78.5%</b>	76	<b>81.7%</b>	41	<b>73.2%</b>
<b>Cases referred</b>						
Between 85%-90%	2	1.3%	1	1.1%	1	1.8%
Below 90%	22	14.8%	12	12.9%	10	17.9%
90% and above	119	<b>79.9%</b>	74	<b>79.6%</b>	45	<b>80.4%</b>

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

### Further information on how the statistics are produced

#### *Nil returns*

- Providers are required to provide information based on a census of 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 in a particular month in the quarter are also classed as a ‘nil return’ in that month.

#### *Timings and publication*

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/>

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



### *Guidance*

Guidance on the data collection is included in the 2014/15 CQUIN guidance and can be found at:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2013/09/CQUIN-Guidance-2014-15-PDF-751KB.pdf>

### *Quality assurance*

Data quality assurance focusses on identifying missing data, data errors (e.g. the numerator should not be greater than the denominator; in general, the percentage of cases identified should be the same or higher than the percentage of cases diagnosed, which should be the same or higher than the percentage of cases referred) and data consistency over time. Any issues identified are discussed with providers who have the opportunity to clarify or resubmit their data within the quality assurance period.

### **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](mailto:nhs.cb.media@nhs.net) or call **0113 825 0958 / 0113 825 0959**

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