

Dementia Assessment and Referral data collection – July 2015

The **July 2015 data** for the **Dementia Assessment and Referral** data collection in England by NHS England were released on 7th October 2015 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

The collection's purpose is to improve the identification of older patients with dementia and delirium, to monitor appropriate assessment and to support effective communication between providers and general practice as part of Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN).

The Dementia Assessment and Referral collection changed at the start of April 2015 to reflect the extension of the 2015/16 CQUIN¹ to include community service providers (community and mental health trusts) as well as acute trusts for the Find and Assess/Investigate measures and to provide an overview at Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) level for the Refer/Inform measure.

Three measures are reported - the number and proportion of patients aged 75 and over admitted as an emergency for more than 72 hours:

- i) who have a diagnosis of dementia or delirium or to whom case finding is applied; *[Find]*ⁱ
- ii) who, if identified as potentially having dementia or delirium, are appropriately assessed; and, *[Assess/Investigate]*ⁱⁱ
- iii) where the outcome was positive or inconclusive, have a care plan on discharge meeting locally agreed standards and shared with general practice. *[Refer/Inform]*ⁱⁱⁱ

Measures i) and ii) are reported by Acute Trusts and Community Service Providers, measure iii) is reported by CCGs using data obtained from trusts and providers, as detailed in the 2015/16 CQUIN Guidance. CQUIN is an incentive scheme in which additional payments are made to trusts and providers; for these measures, payments are made for achievement of at least 90% at specified times in the year.

Note on Data Quality

The data presented cover both Acute Trusts and Community Service Providers. Acute Trusts have maintained a good response rate similar to previous months. The response from Community Service Providers has been low but deemed sufficiently complete to publish results for those organisations which responded.

The response from CCGs has been deemed too low quality both in terms of coverage and completeness to publish at this stage (hence there are no published data associated with measure iii) at this stage).

ⁱ The proportion of patients aged 75 years and over to whom the dementia case finding is applied following an episode of emergency, unplanned care to either hospital or community services;

ⁱⁱ The proportion of those identified as potentially having dementia or delirium who are appropriately assessed;

ⁱⁱⁱ The proportion of those identified, assessed and referred for further diagnostic advice in line with local pathways agreed with commissioners, who have a written dementia care plan of agreed local standards on discharge which is shared with the patient's GP. CCGs are expected to report this indicator as an aggregate across providers based on provider audits of patient case notes.

Key points – Acute Trusts – July 2015

The total number of data returns submitted by NHS Foundation and Non-Foundation Trusts providing acute funded care was 145 in July 2015, the same as in June. These totals include 3 nil returns in July, 1 less than the 4 nil returns submitted in June. The nil returns are excluded from the results presented below.

The key results for acute trusts on the number and proportion of patients aged 75 and over admitted as an emergency for more than 72 hours i) who have been identified as having dementia or delirium or asked the dementia case finding question and ii) who are appropriately assessed are as follows:

- **Overall, for patients**, 91.2% of admitted patients were initially identified or given case finding for potential dementia in July 2015, compared with 90.9% in June.
- Of the patients initially identified or found as potentially having dementia, 95.1% were further appropriately assessed in July 2015, compared with 94.8% in June.
- The percentage of **acute trusts** in July 2015 achieving at least 90% in measures i) and ii) was as follows:
 - 80.3% of the trusts (114 trusts) achieved at least 90% in carrying out initial identification (using case finding) for potential cases of dementia, an increase from 80.1% (113 trusts) in June.
 - 85.9% (122 trusts) achieved at least 90% in carrying out further appropriate assessments, down from 88.7% (125 trusts) in June;
- 102 acute trusts (71.8%) achieved at least 90% in both measures in June 2015.

Key points – Community Service Providers – July 2015

Only a small number of Community Service Providers have been able to submit data so far and are presented in the data.^{iv} The total number of data returns submitted by Community Service Providers was 12 in July 2015, an increase of 1 from 11 submissions in June. These totals include 2 nil returns in both June and July. Nil returns are excluded from the results presented below.

The key results for community service providers on the number and proportion of patients aged 75 and over admitted as an emergency for more than 72 hours i) who have been identified as having dementia or delirium or asked the dementia case finding question and ii) who are appropriately assessed are as follows:

- **Overall, for patients**, 86.3% of admitted patients were initially identified or given case finding for potential dementia in July 2015, down from 90.8% in June.
- Of the patients initially identified or found as potentially having dementia, 94.8% were further appropriately assessed in July 2015, compared with 92.7% in June.
- The percentage of **community service providers** in July 2015 achieving at least 90% in measures i) and ii) was as follows:
 - 50.0% of the providers (5 trusts) achieved at least 90% in carrying out initial identification (using case finding) for potential cases of dementia, a decrease from 77.8% (7 trusts) in June.
 - 80.0% (8 trusts) achieved at least 90% in carrying out further appropriate assessments compared with 77.8% (7 trusts) in June.

^{iv} In order to meet the full CQUIN payments, Community Service and Other Providers will need to achieve a 90% level of assessment from the start of Quarter 3. This may have impacted on the quality of response.

- 5 providers (50.0%) achieved at least 90% in both measures in July 2015.

The full data tables and a more detailed quarterly commentary can be found on the NHS England website:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/dementia/>

¹ Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN) Guidance 2015/16 for further information please see <http://www.england.nhs.uk/nhs-standard-contract/15-16/>