

Thursday 14 September 2017

Statistical Press Notice NHS Continuing Healthcare And NHS-funded Nursing Care data Q1 1718

This NHS England statistical press release summarises data on NHS Continuing Healthcare (NHS CHC) and NHS-funded Nursing Care (FNC) activity. The activity include adults aged 18 and over in England relating to the Q1 2017/18 reporting period.

1 Executive Summary

1.1 NHS Continuing Healthcare

1.1.1 Snapshot

Activity

The total number of people eligible for NHS CHC was 57,165 as at the last day of Q1 2017/18. Of these, 40,015 were eligible via the Standard NHS CHC assessment route and 17,150 were eligible via the Fast Track assessment route.

Referrals

The number of incomplete referrals exceeding 28 days was 9,547 as at the last day of Q1 2017/18.

Of these there were:

- 1,262 exceeded by up to 2 weeks;
- 970 exceeded by more than 2 weeks and up to 4 weeks;
- 2,254 exceeded by more than 4 weeks and up to 12 weeks;
- 1,790 exceeded by more than 12 weeks and up to 26 weeks;
- 3,271 exceeded by more than 26 weeks.

1.1.2 Year to Date

Activity¹

The total cumulative number of cases eligible year to date for NHS CHC was 80,952 up to the end of Q1 2017/18. Of these, 45,129 were eligible via the Standard NHS CHC assessment route and 35,823 were eligible via the Fast Track assessment route.

Personal Health Budgets

The total cumulative number of cases with personal health budgets (PHBs) was 5,410 up to the end of Q1 2017/18. Of these 3,377 were in the form of direct payments.

¹ Corrected 15/09/2017. Year to date figures did not include snapshot figures from beginning of quarter.

1.1.3 In Quarter

Activity

The total number of people assessed for NHS CHC was 35,654 in Q1 2017/18. Of these, 14,668 were via the Standard NHS CHC assessment route and 20,986 were via the Fast Track assessment route.

The total number of people assessed as eligible for NHS CHC was 25,277 in Q1 2017/18. Of these, 4,602 were eligible via the Standard NHS CHC assessment route and 20,675 were eligible via the Fast Track assessment route.

The total number of people assessed as not eligible for NHS CHC was 10,377 in Q1 2017/18. Of these, 10,066 were via the Standard NHS CHC assessment route and 311 were via the Fast Track assessment route.

The total number of people no longer eligible for NHS CHC was 23,787 in Q1 2017/18. Of these, 5,114 were Standard NHS CHC cases and 18,673 were Fast Track cases.

Referrals

The total number of new referrals was 41,680 in Q1 2017/18. Of these, 19,150 were via the Standard NHS CHC assessment route and 22,530 were via the Fast Track assessment route.

The total number of referrals completed was 40,130 in Q1 2017/18, this includes cases discounted prior to assessment. Of these, 18,453 were via the Standard NHS CHC assessment route and 21,677 were via the Fast Track assessment route.

Of the 18,453 Standard NHS CHC referrals completed in Q1 2017/18, 10,595 (57%) were completed within 28 Days.

Conversion Rates

The Standard NHS CHC assessment conversion rate was 31% and the Fast Track assessment conversion rate was 99%.

The Standard NHS CHC referral conversion rate was 25% and the Fast Track referral conversion rate was 95%.

Number of Decision Support Tools (DST) completed

The total number of DSTs completed for the Standard NHS CHC assessment route was 15,005 in Q1 2017/18. Of these, 4,000 (27%) were completed in an acute hospital setting.

1.2 NHS-funded Nursing Care

1.2.1 Snapshot

Activity

The total number of people eligible for NHS-funded Nursing Care was 79,378 as at the last day of Q1 2017/18.

1.2.2 Year to Date

Activity

The total cumulative number of cases eligible year to date for NHS-funded Nursing Care was 92,185 up to the end of Q1 2017/18.

1.3 Missing Data

As of 14th September 2017, all 207 CCGs contributed to this statistical publication.

Revisions to published data are assessed according to the NHS England Unify2 revisions policy².

2 Statistical Notes to Editors

Definitions and further guidance for all concepts relating to NHS CHC can be found in the National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care³.

2.1 NHS CHC Assessment Routes

2.1.1 NHS Continuing Healthcare

NHS Continuing Healthcare means a package of ongoing care that is arranged and funded solely by the NHS where the individual has been found to have a 'primary health need' as set out in the National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care³. Such care is provided to an individual aged 18 or over, to meet needs that have arisen as a result of disability, accident or illness.

2.1.2 Standard NHS CHC

NHS CHC cases which are not Fast Track. This includes those that have been agreed eligible via the standard NHS CHC assessment route (i.e. positive checklist, DST etc.) and those Fast Track cases that have been reviewed and changed to Standard NHS CHC. Does not include Previously Unassessed Periods of Care (PUPoCs).

2.1.3 Fast Track

Individuals with a rapidly deteriorating condition that may be entering a terminal phase, may require 'fast tracking' for immediate provision of NHS Continuing Healthcare. The Fast Track Tool should be completed by an appropriate clinician, who should give the reasons why the person meets the criterion required for the fast-tracking decision. 'Appropriate clinicians' are those persons who are, pursuant to National Health Service Act⁴ responsible for an individual's diagnosis, treatment or care and who are medical practitioners (such as consultants, registrars or GPs) or registered nurses. The clinician should have an appropriate level of knowledge or experience of the type of health needs, so that they are able to comment reasonably on whether the individual has a rapidly deteriorating condition that may be entering a terminal phase.

2.1.4 NHS-funded Nursing Care

NHS-funded Nursing Care (FNC) is the funding provided by the NHS to homes providing nursing to support the provision of nursing care by a registered nurse. In all cases individuals should be considered for eligibility for NHS CHC before a decision is reached about the need for FNC.

2.2 NHS CHC Data Collection

NHS CHC data is collected on a quarterly basis from the 207 Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in England. Each data set is signed-off by the responsible CCG following their internal processes. The submitted data is quality assured by NHS England and any modifications and queries are addressed before publication.

² NHS England Unify2 revisions policy: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/code-compliance/>

³ NHS CHC National Framework: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-framework-for-nhs-continuing-healthcare-and-nhs-funded-nursing-care>

⁴ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/41/contents>

The data measures NHS CHC activity in three time categories: “snapshot”, “year to date” (YTD) and “in quarter”. A breakdown of datasets collected in each time category can be found below:

	Snapshot	Year to Date	In Quarter
Activity	X	X	X
Referrals	X	-	X
Conversion Rates	-	-	X
Personal Health Budgets	-	X	-
Decision Support Tool	-	-	X

Table 1: NHS CHC (Standard and Fast Track assessment routes)

	Snapshot	Year to Date	In Quarter
Activity	X	X	-

Table 2: NHS-funded Nursing Care

For detailed information on collection time categories and datasets please refer to NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care report⁵.

Population data is supplied by NHS Digital⁶. The population estimate for a quarter is given by the number of patients registered at GP practices on the day after the end of the quarter. E.g. Q2 (July, August and September) population data is the population as at 1st October.

A small number of practice figures are not allocated to a specific CCG therefore these still come under the England total but do not appear at CCG or area team level. Therefore the sum of all CCG or area team populations will not reconcile to the England total.

The population methodology contributes to variation between CCGs. This is because there are no weightings included in the GP populations that allow for demographical differences in the composition and health needs of each population, they are simply a count. Whereas this population base may not be perfect for NHS CHC purposes, it is the closest available fit for this cohort.

2.3 NHS CHC Data Availability

NHS CHC activity data is published every quarter. Current data can be found on the NHS England statistics website⁷. CHC activity figures are published to a pre-announced timetable⁸.

2.4 Interpretation of NHS CHC Data

It is essential to note that there may be variations between CCGs, Regional Teams and Regions when compared against each other. This could be due to a wide variety of reasons including (but not limited to) the age dispersion within the local population, variations between geographical areas in terms of their levels of health needs, and the availability of other local services for example step down beds, intermediate care, rehabilitation services, and other CCG community services. In terms of Fast Track NHS CHC there is a wide variety between CCGs in terms of end of life (EOL) services that may or may not be available which may impact levels of Fast Track NHS CHC. Examples of possible EOL services include hospice beds, hospice at home services, night sitting services, and out of hours provision of specialist palliative care. These factors therefore need to be taken into consideration when viewing the data and care should be taken

⁵ <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/nhs-chc-fnc/>

⁶ <http://content.digital.nhs.uk/psd>

⁷ NHS England statistics: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/>

⁸ NHS England statistical calendar: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/12-months-statistics-calendar/>

when attempting to draw simple comparisons.

3 Additional Information

3.1 Further Reading

For more details on NHS CHC data quality and methodology please refer to NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care report ⁵.

3.2 Feedback welcome

We welcome feedback on the content and presentation of NHS Continuing Healthcare data within this statistical press notice and those published on the NHS England website. If you have any comments on this, or any other issues regarding NHS Continuing Healthcare data, please email england.chcdata@nhs.net.

3.3 Contact Information

For press enquiries, please contact the NHS England media team at nhsengland.media@nhs.net or call 0113 825 0958/0959.

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