

Thursday 10 May 2018

Statistical Press Notice NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care data Q4 2017-18

This NHS England statistical press release summarises data on NHS Continuing Healthcare (NHS CHC) and NHS-funded Nursing Care (FNC) activity. The activity includes adults aged 18 and over in England relating to the Q4 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 54,411 as at the last day of Q4 2017-18. Of these, 37,114 were eligible for Standard NHS CHC and 17,297 were eligible for Fast Track NHS CHC.

Referrals

The number of incomplete Standard NHS CHC referrals exceeding 28 calendar days was 5,449 as at the last day of Q4 2017-18.

Of these:

- 877 exceeded by up to 2 weeks;
- 610 exceeded by more than 2 weeks and up to 4 weeks;
- 1,250 exceeded by more than 4 weeks and up to 12 weeks;
- 1,152 exceeded by more than 12 weeks and up to 26 weeks;
- 1,560 exceeded by more than 26 weeks.

1.1.2 Year to Date

Activity

The total cumulative number of cases eligible year to date for NHS CHC was 159,622 up to the end of Q4 2017-18. Of these, 59,913 were eligible via the Standard NHS CHC assessment route and 99,709 were eligible via the Fast Track assessment route.

Personal Health Budgets

The total cumulative number of cases with personal health budgets (PHBs) was 9,127 up to the end of Q4 2017-18. Of these, 4,784 had a direct payment.

1.1.3 In Quarter

Activity

The total number of people assessed for NHS CHC was 38,997 in Q4 2017-18. Of these, 15,564 were via the Standard NHS CHC assessment route and 23,433 were via the Fast Track assessment route.

The total number of people assessed as eligible for NHS CHC was 27,445 in Q4 2017-18. Of these, 4,012 were eligible via the Standard NHS CHC assessment route and 23,433 were eligible via the Fast Track assessment route.

The total number of people assessed as not eligible for NHS CHC was 11,552 in Q4 2017-18. Of these, 11,552 were via the Standard NHS CHC assessment route and 0 were via the Fast Track assessment route.

The total number of people no longer eligible for NHS CHC was 26,989 in Q4 2017-18. Of these, 5,790 were Standard NHS CHC cases and 21,199 were Fast Track cases.

Referrals

The total number of new referrals was 44,122 in Q4 2017-18. Of these, 18,873 were via the Standard NHS CHC assessment route and 25,249 were via the Fast Track assessment route.

The total number of referrals completed was 43,731 in Q4 2017-18; this includes cases discounted prior to assessment. Of these, 19,257 were via the Standard NHS CHC assessment route and 24,474 were via the Fast Track assessment route.

Of the 19,257 Standard NHS CHC referrals completed in Q4 2017-18, 12,776 (66%) were completed within 28 calendar days.

Conversion Rates

The Standard NHS CHC assessment conversion rate was 26% and the Fast Track assessment conversion rate was 100%.

The Standard NHS CHC referral conversion rate was 21% and the Fast Track referral conversion rate was 96%.

Number of Decision Support Tools (DST) completed

The total number of DSTs completed for the Standard NHS CHC assessment route was 15,981 in Q4 2017-18. Of these, 2,236 (14%) 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 76,817 as at the last day of Q4 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 130,697 up to the end of Q4 2017-18.

1.3 Missing Data

All 207 CCGs contributed to this statistical publication.

Revisions to published data are assessed according to the NHS England Unify2 revisions policy¹.

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 Care².

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 Care². 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. It 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 Act³ 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 are collected on a quarterly basis from the 207 Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in England. Each dataset is signed-off by the responsible CCG following their internal processes. The submitted data are quality assured by NHS England and any modifications and queries are addressed before publication.

¹ NHS England Unify2 revisions policy: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/code-compliance/>

² NHS CHC National Framework: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-framework-for-nhs-continuing-healthcare-and-nhs-funded-nursing-care>

³ <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 measures 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 measures and datasets please refer to NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care report⁴.

Population data are sourced from NHS Digital⁵. 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. Q3 (October, November and December) population data is the population as at 1st January. However, due to changes in CCG structures effective 1 April 2018, Q4 (January, February and March) population data is the population as at 1st March.

A small number of practice figures may not be 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 may 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 are published every quarter. Current data can be found on the NHS England statistics website⁶. CHC activity figures are published to a pre-announced timetable⁷.

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

⁴ <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/nhs-chc-fnc/>

⁵ <http://content.digital.nhs.uk/psd>

⁶ NHS England statistics: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/>

⁷ 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 report⁴.

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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