

# Ambulance Quality Indicators: Clinical Outcomes specification for data from April 2018

## Section 1 Introduction

This document provides data suppliers with the specifications for the Clinical Outcome (AmbCO) data items in the NHS England Ambulance Quality Indicators (AQI).

It will assist all stakeholders in the analysis and interpretation of the AQI data, and provide assurance on data quality and reliability.

It is available from <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/data-collections-and-data-sets/data-collections/ambco> and the AQI website landing page, [www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/ambulance-quality-indicators](http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/ambulance-quality-indicators).

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## 1.2 Document history

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|          |  |
|----------|--|
| 20180830 | Cardiac arrest count and post-ROSC bundle introduced. Definitions for Stroke and STEMI timeliness taken from “20180412 STEMI and stroke timeliness specification.pdf”. Definitions for Stroke bundle, STEMI bundle, and Cardiac arrest ROSC and survival, taken from “AQI Guidance v1.31.docx”, with new data item codes introduced. |
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## 1.3 Future editions

Suggestions for amendments to this document may be made via the contact details at the AQI website landing page. NHS England and data providers in this document are working towards improving the data flow between organisations, which may lead to new definitions during 2018-19.

## 1.4 Data supply process

The eleven NHS Ambulance Services in England supply some data items, as specified in the definitions in this document. Starting with data for February 2018, Ambulance Services complete a standard spreadsheet proforma prepared by the Data Collections Team at NHS Digital. This spreadsheet has formulas that prevent it from being accepted if, for example, one of the numerators is larger than the corresponding denominator.

Ambulance Services then log into the NHS Digital Strategic Data Collection Service (SDCS) at <https://collectionportal.sdcs.digital.nhs.uk> and upload the proforma. NHS England downloads the data through the Secure Electronic File Transfer (SEFT) portal at [www.seftprod.hscic.gov.uk](http://www.seftprod.hscic.gov.uk).

The other data items in this document are supplied directly to NHS England from the sources specified in this document. Many of these sources will already have received the required input data from Ambulance Services.

NHS England may ask data suppliers about unusual numbers to check for quality, before publishing the AQI.

The timetable for supply and publication is at the AQI website landing page, [www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/ambulance-quality-indicators](http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/ambulance-quality-indicators).

## Section 2 Cardiac arrest data

Delivery of early access, early Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), early defibrillation and early Advanced Life Support (ALS) is vital to reduce the proportion of patients who die from out of hospital cardiac arrest.

Work is ongoing during 2018-19 to measure time to defibrillation and time to commencing CPR.

### 2.1 Data supply

Starting with data for April 2018, data for all items in Section 2, R0 to R5b, are compiled and sent by Ambulance Services to the Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest Outcomes (OHCAO) registry at Warwick Medical School, who then send a combined file to NHS England.

### 2.2 Cardiac arrest count (R0n)

#### R0n

Count of all cardiac arrest patients receiving an organised Emergency Medical Services (EMS) response; whether resuscitation attempted, continued, terminated, or not attempted.

Exclude successful resuscitation before arrival of EMS.

### 2.3 ROSC (R1n, R1r, R2n, R2r)

Recording of return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) on arrival at hospital indicates the outcome of the pre-hospital response and intervention.

#### R1n

The number of patients who had resuscitation (Advanced or Basic Life Support) commenced / continued by Ambulance Service following an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest.

Code changed from SQU03\_3\_1\_2 in 2018.

#### R1r

Of patients in R1n, the number who had ROSC on arrival at hospital.

Code changed from SQU03\_3\_1\_1 in 2018.

#### R2n

Utstein: The number of patients who had resuscitation (Advanced or Basic Life Support) commenced / continued by 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 (VF) or Ventricular Tachycardia (VT).

Code changed from SQU03\_3\_2\_2 in 2018.

#### R2r

Of patients in R2n, the number who had ROSC on arrival at hospital.

Code changed from SQU03\_3\_2\_1 in 2018.

## 2.4 Survival to discharge (R3n, R3d, R4n, R4d)

### R3n

The number of patients who had resuscitation (Advanced or Basic Life Support) commenced / continued by Ambulance Service following an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest.

Exclude patients for whom survival outcome is not known.

Code changed from SQU03\_7\_1\_2 in 2018.

### R3s

Of patients in R3n, the number discharged from hospital alive.

Code changed from SQU03\_7\_1\_1 in 2018.

### R4n

Utstein: The number of patients who had resuscitation (Advanced or Basic Life Support) commenced / continued by Ambulance Service following an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest of presumed cardiac origin, where the arrest was bystander witnessed and the initial rhythm was VF or VT.

Exclude patients for whom survival outcome is not known.

Code changed from SQU03\_7\_2\_2 in 2018.

### R4s

Of patients in R4n, the number discharged from hospital alive.

Code changed from SQU03\_7\_2\_1 in 2018.

For some patients, survival outcome may not be available to Ambulance Services when they supply data to NHS England. If so, R3n may be fewer than R1n, and R4n may be fewer than R2n.

## 2.5 Post-ROSC care bundle (R5n, R5b)

To give Ambulance Services time to develop new measures, for 2018 NHS England will only collect and publish R5n and R5b data for April, July, and October.

### R5n

The number of patients who had resuscitation (Advanced or Basic Life Support) commenced / continued by Ambulance Service following an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, and had ROSC.

Exclude Traumatic Cardiac Arrest, patients successfully resuscitated before the arrival of ambulance staff, and patients aged less than 18 years.

### R5b

Of patients in R5n, the number who received the post-ROSC care bundle.

If, for any component, no exceptions apply, and the component is not delivered, then the care bundle is not delivered, and the case should be included only in R5n.

If each component is either met or has a valid exception, the care bundle is delivered, and the case should be included in R5b and R5n.

Equipment failure, or presence only of non-registered staff on-scene, are not acceptable exceptions for any of these post-ROSC care bundle components.

If time of ROSC lost is unknown, it should be assumed that ROSC <10 minutes.

| <i>Component of post-ROSC care bundle</i>   | <i>Exceptions</i>  | <i>Comment</i>  |
|---|--|---|
| 12 lead ECG taken post-ROSC   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient refusal</li> <li>• Patient re-arrested with ROSC &lt; 10 minutes in duration</li> </ul>   | If patient in arrest on arrival, should assume 12 lead ECG is post-ROSC                     |
| Blood glucose recorded post-ROSC  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient refusal</li> <li>• Patient re-arrested with ROSC &lt; 10 minutes in duration</li> <li>• Blood glucose measured prior to ROSC and within normal range</li> </ul>   | If blood glucose pre-ROSC is below normal range then a subsequent blood glucose is required |
| End-tidal CO <sub>2</sub> (ETCO <sub>2</sub> ) reading / waveform recorded post-ROSC / continuously         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient refusal</li> <li>• Patient re-arrested with ROSC &lt; 10 minutes in duration</li> <li>• Not required: no advanced airway in situ</li> </ul>   |   |
| Oxygen administered post-ROSC / continuously  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient refusal</li> <li>• Patient re-arrested with ROSC &lt; 10 minutes in duration</li> <li>• Not required: oxygen saturations were 94-98% (88-92% if COPD) and the patient is awake with spontaneous ventilations</li> </ul>   |   |
| Systolic blood pressure reading recorded post-ROSC or, if unobtainable, presence of radial pulse documented | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient refusal</li> <li>• Patient re-arrested with ROSC &lt; 10 minutes in duration</li> </ul>   |   |
| Administration started of a 250ml bolus of saline fluids post-ROSC  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient refusal</li> <li>• Patient re-arrested with ROSC &lt; 10 minutes in duration</li> <li>• Not required: systolic blood pressure &gt; 90 or presence of radial pulse where blood pressure is unobtainable, evidence of significant heart failure or hypervolemia clearly documented</li> <li>• All attempts to gain intravenous and intraosseous vascular access are unsuccessful</li> </ul> | A flush of 10ml is not considered as fluids administered.                                   |

## Section 3 STEMI data

### 3.1 MINAP STEMI data (M1n, M3n, M3m, M390)

Data for items M1n, M3n, M3m and M390 are compiled and sent by Ambulance Services and Acute NHS Trusts to the Myocardial Ischaemia National Audit Project (MINAP), who then send a combined file to NHS England.

M1n, M3n, M3m and M390 superseded STEMI indicators SQU03\_5\_2\_1 and SQU03\_5\_2\_2, which NHS England last collected for October 2017.

MINAP data should exclude patients:

- less than 20 years of age or with age not recorded;
- where the call time, hospital arrival time or angiography time are not available or not realistic (time periods less than zero or more than 1000 minutes);
- already in hospital, repatriated after coronary intervention, self-presenters, inter-hospital transfers, and any other or unknown admission methods;
- with cardiac arrest before arrival at hospital.

#### M1n

The number of patients in the Myocardial Ischaemia National Audit Project (MINAP) directly admitted after transportation by an Ambulance Service in England, with a hospital admission date in the month in question, and an initial diagnosis of “definite Myocardial Infarction (MI)”.

#### M3n

The number of patients in M1n who have primary percutaneous coronary intervention (PPCI).

#### M3m

For patients in M3n, the mean average time from call for help until catheter insertion for angiography.

#### M390

For patients in M3n, the 90<sup>th</sup> centile time from call for help until catheter insertion for angiography.

M3m and M390 should be supplied as a count of minutes (for example, 97 minutes), which can include decimal places. NHS England will publish all time data as hours:minutes (for example, 1:37).

### 3.2 SDCS STEMI data (M4n, M4b)

Items M4n and M4b are supplied by Ambulance Services to NHS England via SDCS.

To give Ambulance Services time to develop new measures, for 2018 NHS England will only collect and publish M4n and M4b data for January, April, July, and October. Ambulance Services should put 0 for these data items in other months.

#### M4n

The number of patients with a pre-hospital diagnosis of suspected ST elevation myocardial infarction confirmed on ECG.

Code changed from SQU03\_5\_3\_2 in 2018.

#### M4b

Of patients in M4n, the number who received the STEMI care bundle.

Code changed from SQU03\_5\_3\_1 in 2018.

If, for any component, no exceptions apply and the component is not delivered, then the bundle is not delivered, and the case should be included only in M4n.

If each component is either met or has a valid exception, the bundle is delivered, and the case should be included in M4b and M4n.

| <i>Component of STEMI care bundle</i>   | <i>Exceptions</i>   |
|---|---|
| Aspirin given   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient refusal</li> <li>• Contraindication to drug</li> <li>• Cautions if clear reasons provided</li> </ul>                                   |
| Glyceryl trinitrate (GTN) given   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient refusal</li> <li>• Contraindication to drug</li> <li>• No chest pain</li> </ul>  |
| Two pain scores recorded  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient refusal</li> <li>• Patient unable</li> <li>• Patient unconscious</li> </ul>  |
| Appropriate analgesia given – options available are Morphine, Entonox and Paracetamol | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient refusal</li> <li>• Patient not in pain</li> <li>• Contraindication to drug(s)</li> <li>• Cautions if clear reasons provided</li> </ul> |

## Section 4 Stroke data

Data items K4n, K4b, K1n, K1m, K150, and K190, are supplied by Ambulance Services to NHS England via SDCS.

Data for items K2n, K2m, K250, K290, K3n, K3m, K350, and K390, are compiled by the Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme (SSNAP), and sent in a combined file from SSNAP to NHS England.

### 4.1 Stroke diagnostic bundle (K4n, K4b) via SDCS

To give Ambulance Services time to develop new measures, for 2018 NHS England will only collect and publish K4n and K4b for January, February, May, August, and November. Ambulance Services should put 0 for these data items in other months.

#### K4n

The number of FAST positive or suspected stroke patients assessed face to face. This refers to patients with a new onset / presentation of suspected stroke symptoms. Include patients with previous stroke or transient ischaemic attack (TIA) who have a new onset of symptoms.

Code changed from SQU03\_6\_2\_2 in 2018.

FAST-positive patients and suspected stroke are both included in K4n and K1n, because acute trusts can record equivalent clinical episodes under either of these categories. Patients can be excluded if they are found to have had a TIA and their symptoms resolve whilst with the ambulance crew.

The FAST assessment helps assess whether someone has suffered a stroke:

- **Facial weakness:** can the person smile? Has their mouth or eye drooped?
- **Arm weakness:** can the person raise both arms?
- **Speech problems:** can the person speak clearly and understand what you say?
- **Time to call 999 for an ambulance** if you spot any one of these signs.

#### K4b

Of patients in K4n, the number who received the stroke diagnostic bundle.

Code changed from SQU03\_6\_2\_1 in 2018.

If, for any component, no exceptions apply and the component is not delivered, then the bundle is not delivered, and the case should be included only in K4n.

If each component is either met or has a valid exception, the bundle is delivered, and the case should be included in K4b and K4n.

| <i>Component of stroke diagnostic bundle</i>   | <i>Exceptions</i>   |
|--|---|
| FAST assessment recorded                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient refusal</li> <li>• Patient unable</li> </ul> |
| Blood glucose recorded                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient refusal</li> </ul>                           |
| Systolic and diastolic blood pressure recorded | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient refusal</li> </ul>                           |



## 4.2 Stroke: time from call to hospital arrival (K1 items) via SDCS

K1, K2 and K3 data items superseded data items SQU03\_6\_1\_1 and SQU03\_6\_1\_2, which NHS England last collected for October 2017.

### K1n

The number of FAST positive or suspected stroke patients assessed face to face. This refers to patients with a new onset / presentation of suspected stroke symptoms. Include patients with previous stroke or TIA who have a new onset of symptoms.

### K1m

For patients in K1n, the mean average time from Clock start to hospital arrival.

### K150

For patients in K1n, the median time from Clock start to hospital arrival.

### K190

For patients in K1n, the 90<sup>th</sup> centile time from Clock start to hospital arrival.

For K1 items, hospital arrival time is as recorded by the Ambulance Service.

## 4.3 Clock start

Clock start for K1m, K150, K190, F1m, and F190, is defined in the Systems Indicators specification at [www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/ambulance-quality-indicators](http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/ambulance-quality-indicators). The 20180525 specification states that clock start is the earliest of:

Category C1 incidents:

- the call is coded (for MPDS, at T5; for NHS Pathways, at disposition); or
- the first resource is assigned; or
- 30 seconds from call connect.

Incidents in other categories:

- the call is coded (for MPDS, at T5; for NHS Pathways, at disposition); or
- the first resource is assigned; or
- 240 seconds from call connect.

## 4.4 Time data

K1m, K150, and K190 should be supplied in time format [h]:mm:ss, which Excel will store as a decimal; for example, two hours (2:00:00) as 0.083333.

K2m, K250, K290, K3m, K350, and K390, should be supplied as a count of minutes (for example, 97 minutes), which can include decimal places.

NHS England will publish all time data as hours:minutes (for example, 1:37).

#### **4.5 Stroke: time from hospital arrival to CT scan (K2 items) from SSNAP**

##### **K2n**

Number of stroke patients in SSNAP, with a hospital admission date in the month in question, who had a Computerised Tomography (CT) scan.

##### **K2m**

For patients in K2n, the mean average time from hospital arrival to CT scan.

##### **K250**

For patients in K2n, the median time from hospital arrival to CT scan.

##### **K290**

For patients in K2n, the 90<sup>th</sup> centile time from hospital arrival to CT scan.

#### **4.6 Stroke: time from hospital arrival to thrombolysis (K3 items) from SSNAP**

##### **K3n**

Number of stroke patients in SSNAP, with a hospital admission date in the month in question, who had thrombolysis.

##### **K3m**

For patients in K3n, the mean average time from hospital arrival to thrombolysis.

##### **K350**

For patients in K3n, the median time from hospital arrival to thrombolysis.

##### **K390**

For patients in K3n, the 90<sup>th</sup> centile time from hospital arrival to thrombolysis.

For K2 and K3 items, hospital arrival time is as recorded by the hospital.

## Section 5 Abbreviations, glossary / data dictionary

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| NEAS, NWAS, YAS,      | North East, North West, Yorkshire,   |
| EMAS, WMAS, EEAST,    | East Midlands, West Midlands, East of England,   |
| LAS, SECAMB, SCAS,    | London, South East Coast, South Central  |
| SWAS, IOW             | South Western, Isle of Wight Ambulance Services  |
| Angiography           | Injection, through a catheter, of a contrast dye into blood vessels, followed by an x-ray to examine the blood vessels. Depending upon the results of this examination, it may be followed by angioplasty. |
| Angioplasty           | Insertion and inflation of a balloon inside a blood vessel to allow blood to flow. Sometimes followed by insertion of a stent.   |
| AQI                   | Ambulance Quality Indicators   |
| Centile               | A 90th centile time to clinical intervention of, for example, 156 minutes, means that 9 out of 10 incidents had that clinical intervention within 156 minutes.   |
| Clock start           | See the formal definition " <a href="#">Clock start</a> "  |
| CPR                   | Cardio-pulmonary resuscitation   |
| CT scan               | Computerised Tomography scan   |
| ECG                   | Electrocardiogram  |
| ETCO <sub>2</sub>     | End-Tidal Carbon Dioxide   |
| FAST                  | Face Arm Speech Test for stroke  |
| GTN                   | Glyceryl trinitrate  |
| IV                    | Intravenous  |
| Mean                  | The average: the sum of all values divided by the count of values  |
| Median                | A median time to clinical intervention of, for example, 93 minutes, means that half the incidents had that clinical intervention within 93 minutes. The median is identical to the 50th centile.           |
| MINAP                 | Myocardial Ischaemia National Audit Project  |
| MPDS                  | Medical Priority Dispatch System   |
| Myocardial Infarction | Damage to heart from reduced blood supply  |
| Myocardial Ischaemia  | Reduced blood supply to heart  |
| NASCQG                | National Ambulance Service Clinical Quality Group  |
| NEWS                  | National Early Warning Scheme  |
| NICOR                 | National Institute for Cardiovascular Outcomes Research  |
| OHCAO                 | Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest Outcome programme   |
| PPCI                  | Primary Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (a form of angioplasty)   |
| Reperfusion           | Restoration of blood flow, for example with angioplasty  |
| ROSC                  | Return of Spontaneous Circulation  |
| SDCS                  | Strategic Data Collection Service at NHS Digital   |
| SpO <sub>2</sub>      | Pulse oximeter oxygen saturation   |
| SSNAP                 | Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme   |
| STEMI                 | ST-segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction, a type of heart attack   |
| TIA                   | Transient Ischaemic Attack   |
| Utstein               | A standardised system for the uniform reporting of cardiac arrest data, originally defined by health professionals at Utstein Abbey in Norway  |
| VF                    | Ventricular Fibrillation: when the heart quivers instead of pumping, due to disorganised electrical activity in the ventricles   |
| VT                    | Ventricular Tachycardia: A type of regular and fast heart rate that arises from improper electrical activity in the ventricles of the heart  |