



Published Thursday 13th June 2019

**STATISTICAL PRESS NOTICE
NHS INPATIENT AND OUTPATIENT EVENT
April 2019**

The following statistics were released today by NHS England and NHS Improvement:

Latest monthly hospital activity events (April 2019)

The activity data for individual months can be affected by the number of working days. To counter this, figures are adjusted for the number of working days for comparison; April 2017 had 18 working days and April 2018 had 20 working days, while April 2019 had 20 working days.

The key points for activity in general and acute specialties from the latest release are:

- GP referrals made for April 2019 decreased by 2.0% compared to April 2018. These referrals had shown a 14.2% increase at the same stage last year (an increase of 2.8% adjusted for working days).
- GP referrals seen for April 2019 increased by 1.7% compared to April 2018. These referrals had shown a 11.4% increase at the same stage last year (an increase of 0.2% when adjusted for working days).
- The volume of first outpatient attendances for April 2019 increased by 3.8% compared to April 2018. These outpatient appointments had shown a 11.5% increase at the same stage last year (an increase of 0.3% when adjusted for working days).
- Elective growth for April 2019 increased by 3.2% compared with April 2018. At the same stage last year elective growth showed an increase of 7.9% (a decrease of 2.9% when adjusted for working days).
- The day case rate (the proportion of total elective admissions that were day cases) for April 2019 is 85.2%, compared with 84.6% in April 2018 and 83.1% in April 2017.
- Non-elective admissions for April 2019 increased by 6.2% compared to April 2018; the change between April 2018 and April 2017 was an increase of 8.1%.

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- SUS+ based analysis¹ estimates a 6.2% April 2019 growth for non-elective admissions. This is composed of 11.7% growth for those with zero Length of Stay (LoS) and 3.6% growth with a LoS of 1 or more days². Estimates for emergency admissions show a 6.6% April 2019 growth (11.8% for zero LoS and 4.1% growth with a LoS of 1 or more).
- A consultation³ on the Monthly and Quarterly Statistical Returns closed on 5th April 2018. A response will be published once results have been analysed and next steps identified. Further discussions with NHS Digital on the details are also required so that we can provide more detail for users in the response. In the mean time, Monthly and Quarterly Activity returns (MAR and QAR) are continuing as normal.

Full tables are available at the link below:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/hospital-activity/monthly-hospital-activity/>

Trusts not submitting data

The following organisation submitted an estimated return for April 2019, due to data quality issues:

Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust (RNS)

¹Secondary Uses Service (SUS+) data collected by NHS hospital trusts is sourced from the Commissioning Data Set (NHS Digital). This provides a richer data source enabling more detailed breakdowns of information and has historically been used as NHS management information.

² Non-elective growth figures adjusted to account for duplicate records within August and September 2017 NCDR extracts

³ www.engage.england.nhs.uk/survey/monthly-and-quarterly-statistics-return/

Notes to Editors

This dataset covers some key aspects of inpatient and outpatient activity in the NHS.

Monthly actuals

This is a count of activity for a given month.

Revisions

Revisions were published for April 2017 to March 2019 along with April 2019 data. The most notable changes affected GP Referrals Made (All specialties), GP Referrals Made (G&A) and Other Referrals Made (G&A). The table below summarises the revisions to the England level figures for these data lines. All revised data are included on the hospital activity webpage.

	GP Referrals Made (All specialties)		GP Referrals Made (G&A)		Other Referrals Made (G&A)	
	Previous	Revised	Previous	Revised	Previous	Revised
Apr-17	1,004,164	1,002,050	962,950	961,015	580,618	576,509
May-17	1,175,568	1,168,530	1,126,934	1,120,164	680,220	672,877
Jun-17	1,198,845	1,193,584	1,151,111	1,146,159	680,557	673,373
Jul-17	1,144,860	1,140,076	1,101,021	1,096,476	661,187	654,782
Aug-17	1,146,152	1,142,685	1,101,423	1,098,059	648,746	643,243
Sep-17	1,115,022	1,111,284	1,071,114	1,067,731	639,288	633,760
Oct-17	1,194,998	1,189,787	1,150,428	1,145,595	693,520	685,745
Nov-17	1,182,996	1,178,647	1,139,485	1,135,417	685,398	677,967
Dec-17	936,435	932,364	898,593	895,906	569,822	564,111
Jan-18	1,170,473	1,169,051	1,121,707	1,121,709	683,501	679,005
Feb-18	1,080,164	1,079,633	1,037,302	1,037,790	613,685	609,658
Mar-18	1,154,027	1,154,116	1,108,756	1,110,073	652,314	648,843
Apr-18	1,136,136	1,140,971	1,091,600	1,097,896	653,366	652,023
May-18	1,213,851	1,212,283	1,166,099	1,166,129	714,080	711,002
Jun-18	1,157,386	1,154,853	1,109,654	1,109,849	681,534	680,293
Jul-18	1,182,356	1,179,730	1,131,284	1,134,289	699,966	697,339
Aug-18	1,135,284	1,131,850	1,088,000	1,087,693	663,835	660,058
Sep-18	1,077,978	1,074,389	1,034,517	1,031,359	638,561	636,915
Oct-18	1,244,375	1,240,896	1,193,260	1,190,373	746,922	743,740
Nov-18	1,173,382	1,176,144	1,128,652	1,130,795	709,819	708,897
Dec-18	957,609	954,369	919,972	915,951	593,265	592,452
Jan-19	1,189,602	1,188,138	1,142,211	1,140,747	722,459	722,454
Feb-19	1,101,231	1,099,531	1,058,983	1,057,283	658,534	658,534
Mar-19	1,176,576	1,175,496	1,131,553	1,130,473	701,917	701,917

Provider and Commissioner based data

Commissioner based returns reflect data on a responsible population basis, which is defined as:

- All those patients resident within the CCG boundary; plus
- All patients registered with GPs who are members of the CCG but are resident in another CCG; minus
- All patients resident in the CCG but registered with a GP who is a member of another CCG

Commissioner based returns also include data for specialised commissioning. These are separate from the CCGs as there are different arrangements for commissioning specialised services.

Provider based returns cover all English commissioned activity for patients who were treated in hospitals in England⁴.

GP referrals made (general & acute)

This is a count of the referrals made by GPs to hospital consultants for a first outpatient appointment in general & acute specialties.

GP referrals seen (general & acute)

This is a count of the GP referrals seen by hospital consultants as a first attendance appointment in general & acute specialties. There is a time lag between GP referrals made and seen so that not all the referrals made in a given month are seen in the same month. Not all "GP referrals made" result in a "GP referral seen" as some referrals will be seen as inappropriate and do not require a consultant outpatient appointment. In these instances the referral will be returned to the GP. In addition some patients do not attend (DNA) appointments. Inappropriate referrals and DNAs contribute to the difference in volumes between GP referrals "made" and "seen".

First Outpatient attendances (general & acute)

This is the number of first outpatient attendances in general and acute specialties where the patient was seen by a consultant (or a doctor acting for the consultant). This count of attendances is for all sources of referral and is not restricted to just those as a result of a GP referral.

Elective ordinary admissions (general & acute)

This is a count of ordinary elective admissions made to general & acute specialties in a given month. An ordinary admission is a hospital admission requiring an overnight stay.

⁴ From April 2018, provider data published excludes non-English commissioned activity and include all providers who have submitted data. Prior to April 2018, provider data covered all patients who were treated in hospitals in England included non-English commissioned activity and excluded non-English providers and IS1 (independent sector unspecified).

Elective day case admissions (general & acute)

This is a count of the day case admissions made to general & acute specialties in a given month. A day case admission is where a patient is admitted to hospital but an overnight stay is not required. The day case rate is calculated by expressing the volume of day case admissions as a proportion of all elective admissions ie. Elective ordinary admissions and elective day case admissions combined.

Elective admissions (general & acute)

This is the count of elective ordinary admissions and elective day case admissions to general & acute specialties in a given month. There are three different admission methods for elective patients - waiting list, booked and planned. These categories are technical in nature and potentially misleading as both waiting list AND booked patients are, in lay terms, "admitted from a waiting list". Planned patients - again this is a technical term as to the lay person all elective patients might be considered to be "planned". In this more technical context, planned patients are a subset of elective patients and are those patients for whom the wait for admission was determined by clinical constraints rather than resource constraints. For example, a cancer patient will be required to wait a clinically appropriate period between doses of chemotherapy and these admissions will be classified as planned.

Elective ordinary admissions planned (general & acute)

This is the count of planned patients admitted as elective ordinary admissions in general & acute specialties.

Elective day case admission planned (general & acute)

This is the count of planned patients admitted as elective day case admissions in general & acute specialties. The proportion of elective admissions which are planned can be calculated by adding the planned ordinary admissions and planned day case admissions. Data is not collected separately on waiting list & booked admissions but the proportion of such admissions can be deduced by subtracting the proportion of planned electives from the total. So, for example, if 25% of elective admissions are planned the remainder (75%) by deduction are, in lay terms, "waiting list" (in technical terms "waiting list & booked") admissions.

Feedback welcomed

We welcome feedback on the content and presentation of the statistics within this Statistical Press Notice and those published on the NHS England website. If anyone has any comments on this, or any other issues regarding the data and statistics, then please email:

england.nhsdata@nhs.net

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Additional Information

Full details of activity data for individual organisations is available at:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/hospital-activity/monthly-hospital-activity/>

Press enquiries:

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

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