

**STATISTICAL PRESS NOTICE
MIXED-SEX ACCOMMODATION BREACH DATA
FEBRUARY 2020**

Main Points

- This notice presents data on all breaches of the Mixed-Sex Accommodation (MSA) guidance (i.e. occurrences of unjustified mixing) relating to English NHS-funded providers of healthcare hospital sleeping accommodation during February 2020.
- Providers of NHS-funded healthcare reported 4,929 breaches of the MSA guidance in relation to NHS patients in sleeping accommodation in England during February 2020, compared to 1,723 in February 2019.
- This includes 2,637 breaches reported by Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust. Previously the Trust incorrectly reported data to the national collection. The Trust has now rectified this following an internal review of processes.
- This was the highest total in the last 12 months and since March 2011, however if Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust is excluded, the total is in line with trends over the past years.
- Of the 145 Acute Trusts that submitted data for February 2020, 87 (60.0%) reported zero sleeping breaches.
- 4,921 (99.8%) of all the breaches that occurred were in Acute Trusts.
- An MSA breach rate is published alongside counts of breaches to enable comparison between provider organisations and over time. This is the number of MSA breaches of sleeping accommodation per 1,000 finished consultant episodes (FCEs). The MSA breach rate for England in February 2020 is 3.0 per 1,000 FCEs compared to 1.1 in February 2019.
- In September 2019 a revised policy, "[Delivering same-sex accommodation](#)" was published. Data providers were asked to ensure reporting of MSA breaches for the purposes of this collection were in line with the revised policy by January 2020. The transition period allowed providers to make appropriate changes to enable them to report on this basis. As such this may have impacted on data quality for September - December 2019 data. Providers should all be reporting consistently and as per the updated guidance from January 2020 onwards.
- From November 2019 publication (September data) onwards the Hospital Episode Statistics FCE data (used to calculate the breach rate) are published alongside the MSA data to provide transparency and clarity for

users. The data will be subject to Hospital Episode Statistics suppression rules.

- Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust did not submit data for October to January 2020 due to data quality issues.
- Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust did not submit data for December to January 2020 due to data quality issues.

Provider and commissioner tables as well as hospital site level data can be found at:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/mixed-sex-accommodation/msa-data/>

Statistical Notes

1. MSA Data Collection

National reporting of unjustified mixing (i.e. breaches) in relation to sleeping accommodation commenced on 1 February 2010. MSA breach data is collected monthly from all NHS providers and other organisations that provide NHS-funded care (including Independent and Voluntary Sector organisations). Data are collected, validated and published in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. From April 2011, the MSA data return has been mandatory for all NHS Trusts, and the return is now listed in schedule 6 of Monitor's terms of authorisation, meaning that data submission is also mandatory for Foundation Trusts.

As well as monitoring and reporting all unjustified mixing of sleeping accommodation, the NHS is also required to monitor all justified mixing in sleeping accommodation, all mixed-sex sharing of bathroom / toilet facilities (including passing through accommodation or toilet/bathroom facilities used by the opposite gender), and all mixed provision of day space in mental health units at a local level. For practical reasons, central reporting has been mandated for MSA breaches in respect of sleeping accommodation only.

"Sleeping accommodation" includes areas where patients are admitted and cared for on beds or trolleys, even where they do not stay overnight. Further information on what constitutes a nationally reportable breach can be found in the national policy, "[Delivering same-sex accommodation](#)".

2. Provider and Commissioner based data

MSA data is published both on a provider and commissioner basis.

Provider-based reflects data at organisation level for those organisations that provide NHS funded treatment or care, for example NHS Acute Trusts, NHS Mental Health Trusts, Independent Sector and Voluntary Sector organisations.

Commissioner-based reflects data on a responsible population basis, i.e. Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) that are responsible for commissioning a patient's treatment.

3. Data availability

From June 2018, NHS England aligned the publication of the MSA collection with the monthly NHS England publication of the Combined Performance Statistics to improve data coherence.

4. Revisions to published figures

Revisions were last published alongside the October 2019 data in December 2019 covering April 2019 to September 2019. No revision requests were received for April 2019 and May 2019. Revisions were made by 4 organisations. The effect of these revisions at a national level was minimal (Table 1).

Table 1: Revisions published on 13th December 2019

Month	Total Breaches	
	Original	Revised
Apr 19	1,415	N/A
May 19	1,386	N/A
Jun 19	1,363	1,364
Jul 19	1,274	1,275
Aug 19	1,199	1,214
Sep 19	1,595	1,583

5. MSA breach rate indicator

The MSA breach rate is the number of breaches of mixed-sex sleeping accommodation per 1,000 Finished Consultant Episodes.

An MSA breach rate indicator was developed because a simple count of the number of MSA breaches does not provide a fair comparison across healthcare providers. Raw numbers alone do not take into account the size of an organisation and it would be unfair to classify large acute providers as “worst performing” compared to other, smaller providers, as they handle larger volumes of admitted patients and therefore the possibility of mixing patients is greater. The MSA breach rate indicator gives us the ability to compare healthcare providers with others, or to compare change over time. It can tell us how a provider is “performing” in relation to other similar organisations, or the national average, and whether they are improving or getting worse.

For more information, see the MSA Breach Rate methodology paper at: <http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/mixed-sex-accommodation/>

6. Data Quality

MSA breach data was collected by provider organisations for the first time in February 2010. Figures published during the early months of the collection from February 2010 to March 2011 should be treated with a degree of caution as providers were implementing and embedding new data collection procedures.

From April 2011 MSA data have been mandatory for all NHS providers, including Foundation Trusts, and flat-rate fines for MSA breaches have been built into organisations' contracts. Therefore, it is expected that MSA data collection processes are now fully embedded in the NHS and that the data submitted from April 2011 onwards is of a higher quality than in previous months.

January 2019 includes 1,123 breaches reported by Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust. Previously the Trust has incorrectly reported data to the national collection. The Trust has now rectified this following advice from NHS England and NHS Improvement that national policy and guidance should be followed.

In September 2019 a revised policy, "[Delivering same-sex accommodation](#)" was published. Data providers were asked to ensure reporting of MSA breaches for the purposes of this collection were in line with the revised policy by January 2020. The transition period allowed providers to make appropriate changes to enable them to report on this basis. As such this may have impacted on data quality for September - December 2019 data. Providers should all be reporting consistently and as per the updated guidance from January 2020 onwards.

From January 2020 publication (November 2019 data) onwards:

- The number of MSA breaches attributable to each regional team has been aggregated based on the commissioner of care i.e. focussing on what NHS England has commissioned (this is consistent with other data collections); previously this was aggregated based on the provider of care.
- Breaches for Non-English commissioned patients are excluded. These numbers are small and excluding them has a minimal impact on the timeseries data.

7. Feedback welcomed

We welcome feedback on the content and presentation of MSA statistics within this Statistical Press Notice and those published on the NHS England website. Please email any comments on this, or any other issues regarding the MSA data and statistics, to: england.nhsdata@nhs.net

8. Additional Information

Details of MSA data for individual organisations are available at:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/mixed-sex-accommodation/msa-data/>

For further information, please e-mail the NHS England media team at nhs.cb.media@nhs.net or call 07768 901293

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