

Statistical Press Notice

NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care data Q4 2023-24

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 2023-24 reporting period.

NHS CHC referrals and activity have been impacted by the emergency coronavirus legislation, and data for the current reporting period may therefore not be comparable to previous periods.

From 1 July 2022, Integrated Care Boards were established and replaced Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs). Clinical Commissioning Groups have been replaced by sub-Integrated Care Boards. Data for the NHS CHC Data collection is now submitted by sub-Integrated Care Boards. Data are now presented by the current organisational structures; old organisational structures have been mapped to new structures in any time series, and as such data for the current reporting period may therefore not be comparable to previous periods.

1 Executive Summary

1.1 NHS Continuing Healthcare

1.1.1 Snapshot

Referrals

The number of incomplete Standard NHS CHC referrals exceeding 28 calendar days was 1,730 as at the last day of Q4 2023-24.

Of these:

- 612 exceeded by up to 2 weeks;
- 314 exceeded by more than 2 weeks and up to 4 weeks;
- 591 exceeded by more than 4 weeks and up to 12 weeks;
- 173 exceeded by more than 12 weeks and up to 26 weeks;
- 40 exceeded by more than 26 weeks.

Activity

The total number of people eligible for NHS CHC was 52,096 as at the last day of Q4 2023-24. Of these, 34,055 were eligible for Standard NHS CHC and 18,041 were eligible for Fast Track NHS CHC.

Local Resolution Requests

The total number of incomplete local resolution requests for NHS CHC was 2,158 as at the last day of Q4 2023-24.

1.1.2 Year to Date

Activity

The total cumulative number of cases eligible year to date for NHS CHC was 165,218 up to the end of Q4 2023-24. Of these, 47,871 were Standard NHS CHC and 117,347 Fast Track NHS CHC.

Previously Unassessed Periods of Care (PUPoC)

The total cumulative number of cases eligible year to date for previously unassessed periods of care NHS CHC was 431 up to the end of Q4 2023-24.

1.1.3 In Quarter

Referrals

The total number of new referrals was 46,104 in Q4 2023-24. Of these, 17,097 were via the Standard NHS CHC assessment and 29,007 were via the Fast Track assessment route.

The total number of referrals completed was 45,287 in Q4 2023-24. Of these, 16,435 were via the Standard NHS CHC assessment route and 28,852 were via the Fast Track assessment.

Of 16,435 Standard NHS CHC referrals completed, 11,988 (73%) were completed within 28 calendar days in Q4 2023-24.

The total number of referrals discounted before assessment was 5,579 in Q4 2023-24. Of these, 3,808 were via the Standard NHS CHC assessment route and 1,771 were via the Fast Track assessment.

Assessments

The total number of people assessed for NHS CHC was 39,708 in Q4 2023-24. Of these, 12,627 were via the Standard NHS CHC assessment route and 27,081 were via the Fast Track assessment route.

The total number of people assessed as eligible for NHS CHC was 29,705 in Q4 2023-24. Of these, 2,624 were eligible via the Standard NHS CHC assessment route and 27,081 were eligible via the Fast Track assessment route.

The total number of people assessed as not eligible for Standard NHS CHC was 10,003 in Q4 2023-24.

Other in quarter activity

The total number of people no longer eligible for NHS CHC was 29,214 in Q4 2023-24. Of these, 3,823 were Standard NHS CHC cases and 25,391 were Fast Track cases.

Conversion Rates

The Standard NHS CHC assessment conversion rate was 21%.

The Standard NHS CHC referral conversion rate was 16% and the Fast Track referral conversion rate was 94%.

Number of Decision Support Tools (DSTs) completed

The total number of DSTs completed for the Standard NHS CHC assessment route was 12,795 in Q4 2023-24. Of these, 31 (0.24%) were completed in an acute hospital setting.

Number of Local Resolution Requests

The total number of local resolution requests completed was 596 in Q4 2023-24. Of these, 80 (13%) resulted in eligibility.

1.2 NHS-funded Nursing Care

1.2.1 Snapshot

Activity

The total number of people eligible for NHS-funded Nursing Care was 75,748 as at the last day of Q4 2023-24.

1.2.2 Year to Date

Activity

The total cumulative number of people eligible year to date for NHS-funded Nursing Care was 120,539 up to the end of Q4 2023-24.

1.3 Missing Data

In Q4 2023-24, 106 ICB Sub Locations contributed to this statistical publication.

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

The impact of missing data varies depending on the measure being considered. The impact of single ICB Sub Location omissions will generally be minimal. A notable exception would be where an ICB Sub Location has

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

contributed heavily to a previous period's activity (such as a very high activity figure). The absence of such an ICB Sub Location could materially impact England-level activity or performance.

To assess the impact of missing data, we analyse how the omission of a ICB Sub Location's data would have affected the previous period's activity. Each metric is recalculated at the England-level and any significant (typically more than 1%) changes are identified. As all ICB Sub Locations submitted data for the Q4 2023-24 publication, no data impact assessment was required.

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 Care.

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 Previously Unassessed Period of Care

Claims for Previously Unassessed Periods of Care (PUPoC) refer to a specific request to consider eligibility for a past period of care, where there is evidence that the individual should have been assessed for eligibility for NHS CHC funding. PUPoCs may relate to either deceased or ongoing eligible cases.

2.1.5 Local Resolution Requests

A local resolution request is a request to review an eligibility decision, by the individual or their representative, following a full assessment undertaken using the Decision Support Tool (or by use of the Fast Track Pathway tool).

2.1.6 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.

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

³National Health Service Act: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/41/contents>

2.2 NHS CHC Data Collection

NHS CHC data are collected on a quarterly basis from the 106 Integrated Care Board Sub Locations (ICB Sub Location) in England. Each dataset is signed-off by the responsible commissioner following their internal processes. The submitted data are quality assured by NHS England and any modifications and queries are addressed before publication.

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:

Table 1: NHS CHC (Standard and Fast Track)

	Snapshot	Year to Date	In Quarter
Referrals	X	-	X
Assessments	-	-	X
Activity	X	X	X
Conversion Rates	-	-	X
Local Resolution Requests	X	-	X
Previously Unassessed Period of Care	-	X	-
Decision Support Tool	-	-	X

Table 2: NHS-funded Nursing Care

	Snapshot	Year to Date	In Quarter
Activity	X	X	-

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. quarter three (October, November and December) population data is the population as at 1st January.

The population methodology contributes to variation between ICB Sub Locations. 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 ICB sub locations, ICBs 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

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

⁵NHS Digital: <http://content.digital.nhs.uk/psd>

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

⁷NHS England statistics calendar: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/12-months-statistics-calendar/>

availability of other local services for example step down beds, intermediate care, rehabilitation services, and other ICB community services. In terms of Fast Track NHS CHC there is a wide variety between ICB sub locations 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 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.

3.2 Feedback welcome

We welcome feedback on the content and presentation of NHS Continuing Healthcare statistics 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 statistics, 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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