

Our patient safety incident reporting data publications will be changing with the adoption of PSIMS

September 2020

We are in the process of [developing a new Patient Safety Incident Management System](#) to replace the existing National Reporting and Learning System (NRLS). Our improved incident management system will make it easier to record incidents and simpler for people and organisations to analyse and learn from the information we hold, better supporting them to learn and improve patient safety.

As we roll out the new system during Public Beta, from late 2020/21 onwards, we will be changing the type of information we ask you to share with us when a patient safety incident occurs, as well as the patient safety incident data we publish to improve the level of insight that can be gained from this national source of incident data.

These changes will **not**:

- alter the responsibility and accountability of healthcare providers to report and learn from patient safety incidents; organisations will continue locally to report and manage the response to incidents, and work to reduce the risks to patients
- affect how providers manage patient safety risks
- impact on the safety of patients.

Why are we changing the system?

At present, patient safety incidents are reported through several different systems that were developed over 16 years ago. The technology is now dated, and the systems are no longer aligned appropriately to how healthcare is delivered today. This means that, for example, some incidents have to be reported more than once to different organisations and in different formats, and some of the data collected is no longer optimal for supporting learning and improvement.

What are the benefits of the changes?

They will:

- make it easier for people across a wide variety of healthcare providers to record and share details of patient safety incidents
- reduce the amount of duplicate recording of the same incident across different reporting systems
- provide better quality information to support learning and improvement across the NHS
- make it easier for people and organisations to access their own data to support local learning
- make it easier for patients and families to participate in safety learning
- use modern tools and technology to derive new insights for healthcare improvement.

How will the changes affect people who use the data we publish on patient safety incident reporting?

We are using [agile methodology](#) to build the new system, which means we are constantly developing and refining it in response to user need. This approach means things can change rapidly so it is difficult to predict with certainty exactly how the data we currently publish around incident reporting (and, in time, data currently recorded in [StEIS](#)) will need to change and when.

However, we do know that the number of incidents recorded will start to change following the piloting of the new system in some organisations between April 2019 and Summer 2020, and increasingly as it is rolled out across the NHS and all organisations and reporters move to using PSIMS rather than NRLS and StEIS. We also anticipate more incidents will be recorded on PSIMS because, for example, by offering more flexible, remote technologies, a wider range of healthcare providers will be able to access the system. NRLS and PSIMS data will not be comparable in many respects because of changes to the data collected. Going forwards it will not be possible to directly compare NRLS and PSIMS data for these reasons.

Table 1 provides some estimates of what will change and when. We will provide further updates once we are more certain.

Table 1. Anticipated impacts on NRLS data during DPSIMS roll-out

Development phase	What will change	When
Private beta (pilot testing)	<p>Organisations participating in the pilot record incidents onto PSIMS and not the NRLS (some choose to double-report).</p> <p>Any output that includes these participating organisations may not include their data in full.</p> <p>National and other totals may be lower than expected.</p> <p>PSIMS and NRLS data is not comparable so including pilot PSIMS data into NRLS outputs may be misleading.</p>	April 2019 to Summer 2020
Public beta	<p>Any organisation that wishes to record into PSIMS rather than NRLS will be encouraged to do so. The intention is that any organisation joining the PSIMS Public Beta will no longer report to NRLS. Public Beta marks the start of the transition from NRLS to PSIMS.</p> <p>Outputs will start to present PSIMS data in addition to NRLS data.</p> <p>PSIMS and NRLS data will not be comparable so the data from the two sources cannot be added and must be treated differently.</p> <p>National and other totals may fluctuate in an unpredictable way. Explanatory guidance will be provided on this.</p>	Late 2020/21 onwards
Live	Formalisation of national transition from recording incidents on NRLS to PSIMS.	Late 2021/22 onwards

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