

# NRLS official statistics publications: revisions and corrections policy

Version 1.3, 13 October 2022

# Scope of policy

This policy covers three of NHS England’s official statistics publications that use data from patient safety incident reports collected via the National Reporting and Learning System (NRLS):

- national patient safety incident reports ([NaPSIR](#), formerly Quarterly Data Summary – QDS)
- organisation patient safety incident reports ([OPSIR](#))
- [monthly summary data](#) on patient safety incident reports<sup>1</sup>

The policy is issued in compliance with Practice Q3.4 of the [code of practice for statistics](#) which states that “Scheduled revisions, or unscheduled corrections that result from errors, should be explained alongside the statistics, being clear on the nature, cause and impact”. This helps support assured quality in statistics.

## Routine revisions to data

We consider routine revisions to be:

- updates made to submitted incidents as more information becomes available
- the new addition of retrospective incidents.

Routine revisions result in changes to retrospective data, and may mean that data published for the same period changes across different publications. Routine revisions can affect all three official statistic publications. However, they are more likely to affect the monthly data because these summaries are produced within

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<sup>1</sup> Although not formally an official statistic this output is included here due to its similarity to the OPSIR and NaPSIR

three weeks of the reporting period finishing and recent data is more likely to change.

We will incorporate routine revisions into the next available release of new data where the revision is within the timeframe of published data. Where a routine revision has an important impact on trends, we will include interpretation of this in documentation with the new data release. We will do this after carefully considering users' needs.

## Corrections to published data

Corrections to published data include instances where an error has occurred, or any other changes outside the scope of routine revisions described above. We will only make these corrections if the extent of the update significantly affects interpretation. For example, if the error leads to a large or significant increase or decrease in the number of incidents reported, we would publish the corrected data. In these instances, we will also publish an explanation for the change and draw users' attention to it. We will decide on the need to correct published data after carefully considering users' needs.

## Contact us for help

If you have any questions about the NRLS data collection, the published data or your organisation's data, please contact the NRLS team:

[nrls.datarequests@nhs.net](mailto:nrls.datarequests@nhs.net)

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