

HES 2007-08 Inpatient Data Quality Note

The data quality note will be updated in the event of issues arising post-publication. A summary of changes made will appear in the table below.

| Version control | |
|-----------------|--|
| Date | Summary of Update |
| 09/03/2010 | V3 - Amendment: Reformat of Provider Coverage Issues - Addition: Sex field issue for Provider RX1 |
| 21/07/2009 | V2 - Amendment: Known Provider Issues expanded - Removal: Pseudonymised HES ID activated |
| 20/02/2009 | V1 - Note for publication |

Introduction

The following issues have been identified and are present in the data:

GP practice null increase (GPPRAC)

We continue to have concerns over the number of nulls in this field. This has decreased from provisional data but remains above the number of nulls in previous annual refreshes.

Impact: GPPRAC is used in the derivation of the current and historic PCT of responsibility (PCTCODE06 and PCTCODE02). The derivation routine will in the vast majority of cases still produce a result but that result may in a small number of cases remove the distinction between the 'of residence' and 'of responsibility fields'.

Sextuplets

There are large numbers (47,000) of delivery records containing spurious birth tails. Instead of the one or two delivery tails that should be attached to the delivery record, typically 6 delivery tails are present. Birth records are not affected.

Impact: large numbers of delivery records representing high order multiple births are present in the data.

Caution is advised when using the above records.

Augmented care periods

Augmented care period data has been replaced by the critical care data set.

Impact: The coverage and quality of augmented care period data within HES is uncertain.

Use of augmented care period data is advised against in all circumstances.

Birth record postcodes

Any Birth (episode status is 3) or Other Birth (episode status is 6) submitted after the 15 December 2007 will have a blank postcode. Due to resubmissions this issue can affect records from any month, however, all records for January, February and March 2008 are affected. This is due to changes introduced in [DSCN 35/07](http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/dscn/dscn2007/dscn35-2007.pdf) [http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/dscn/dscn2007/dscn35-2007.pdf]

Impact: Postcode is used to determine geographical information along residential lines. Without it the only residential fields that can be derived are Current and Historic PCT of residence, Current and Historic StHA of residence, Health Authority of Residence, Regional Office of residence, and Government office of the regions. It will not be possible to derive any information of any other residential information – output areas, indices of multiple deprivation, electoral ward, and local authority.

Furthermore, postcode can be used to help determine PCT of responsibility for some records and as such the quality of this field will be impacted.

Records submitted before the 15 December 2007 may still have a postcode present. Geographical data for these records would derive as before.

Caution is advised when viewing any geographical data for Birth records.

Unfinished episodes

Returns of unfinished episodes continue (episode status = 1) to represent only approximately 20% of the expected level.

Impact: coverage is not sufficient to allow confidence in national figures – some organisations do return expected levels however some organisations appear to only have partial coverage.

Caution is strongly advised when attempting to use unfinished episodes.

Psychiatric census records

Psychiatric census records (epitype 4) are not present in HES AR 07-08 due to exceptionally poor coverage and quality. However, inconsistencies in data completeness have meant a small number (46) remain in the data.

Impact: analysis on psychiatric census records is not possible. All psychiatric census records (epitype 4) records should be excluded from all analysis.

PCTNHS

PCTNHS (Primary Care Trust of responsibility submitted by the NHS) is not populated for unfinished episodes.

Impact: the derivation of PCT of residence for unfinished episodes in some cases will incorrectly remove a distinction between the PCT of responsibility and PCT of residence.

Caution is advised when using the above records.

Extract date not consistent across all providers

The majority of the data reflects interchanges submitted to SUS before 5pm on the 13 June 2008.

All data for the following organisations was extracted from SUS on the 15 September 2008:

- Birmingham Childrens Hospital (RQ3)
- Buckinghamshire PCT (5QD)
- Manchester Mental Health & Social Care Trust (TAE)
- Milton Keynes PCT (5CQ)
- North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust (RWW)
- North Staffs Combined Healthcare Trust (RLY)
- The Cheshire and Merseyside NHS Treatment Centre (Interhealth) (NTD)
- West Sussex PCT (5P6)

The following organisations have had gaps in their data resolved by using data contained within earlier HES extracts.

| Organisations with data gaps using data from earlier HES extracts | | | |
|---|----------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Organisation Name | Org Code | Months Affected | Extract Date Used |
| Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust | RXH | Oct, Nov, Dec | 25/04/2008 |
| Cambridgeshire PCT | 5PP | All | 25/04/2008 |
| Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust | TAF | Apr, May, Jun | 27/07/2007 |
| Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust | TAF | Jul, Aug, Sep | 26/10/2007 |
| West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust | RWG | Apr - Jul | 25/04/2008 |

Impact: The coding of these episodes may not be as complete compared to episodes submitted for annual refresh.

Caution is advised when using the above records.

Birth episodes: Stillborn

Description

For birth episodes (epitype = 3) the number of Still Birth: ante-partum recorded in the birth status field (birstat1 = 2) have been artificially inflated due to Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (RD7) incorrectly recording 99% of their records (5,549) as Still Birth: ante-partum.

Impact: The number of stillborns should be treated with extreme caution unless data belonging to Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (RD7) is excluded.

Known provider issues

Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (RD7)

Stillbirths information

Description

Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (RD7) recorded 99% of all delivery episodes as stillborn in 2007-08.

Impact: This Trust's data should therefore be interpreted with caution.

Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust (RX1)

Sex Fields values transposed

Description

Due to a technical error at the Trust, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust have a significant number of episodes with transposed values for Male and Female (values 1, 2) in the Sex field.

Impact: The issue affects all records (approximately 47,000) for Provider Site RX1CC (City Campus) between July to December 2007.

Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Health Care NHS Trust (RCC)

False delivery records

Description

The number of delivery episodes submitted to the delivery CDS by Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Health Care NHS Trust is significantly higher than the number of deliveries actually taking place at the Trust. This is a result of the Trust having incorrectly submitted a large number of general episodes (where no delivery took place) to the delivery CDS.

Impact: This Trust's data should therefore be interpreted with caution.

Known provider issues: coverage issues

The following organisations have shortfalls; their data should be interpreted with caution.

| Organisations with shortfalls / missing data | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Organisation name | Org. code | Months affected | Approx. no. of records missing |
| Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust | RVL | Aug - Dec | 45,000 |
| Barnet PCT | 5A9 | Aug - Mar | 200 |
| BMI Hospitals | NT4 | Apr - Aug | 80 |
| Central Lancashire PCT | 5NG | Dec - Jan | 15 |
| Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT | 5QA | Apr - Sept | 50 |
| Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust | RWR | Jan - Mar | 300 |
| Leicester City PCT | 5PC | Feb - Mar | 30 |
| Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT | 5PA | Mar | 900 |
| Newham PCT | 5C5 | May - Mar | 1,000 |
| North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus | TAN | Jan - Mar | 50 |
| Richmond and Twickenham PCT | 5M6 | Mar | 20 |
| South Downs Health NHS Trust | RDR | Jul - Mar | 450 |
| Spire Hospitals | NT3 | Jul - Dec | 1,500 |
| Sunderland Teaching PCT | 5KL | Jul - Mar | 120 |
| Warwickshire PCT | 5PM | Feb - Mar | 100 |
| West London Mental Health Trust | RKL | Oct - Mar | 750 |