

## Provisional Monthly Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) in England – April 2009 to January 2010. Pre-operative Data: Experimental Statistics 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. For the most recent version of this data quality note, please refer to the [HESonline website](http://www.hesonline.nhs.uk) [http://www.hesonline.nhs.uk].

Version control	
Date	Summary of update
10/06/2010	'Provisional Monthly Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) in England – April 2009 to January 2010. Pre-operative Data: Experimental Statistics Data Quality Note' published

Please note this data is provisional and subject to changes and revisions each month. It should be treated as an estimate until the final annual publication.

### Introduction

The following issues have been identified as present in data:

### Experimental dataset

Not all patients who underwent a relevant operation have PROMs data included in the publication. This may be for one of several reasons, and includes the fact that: (i) questionnaire completion is voluntary for the patient; (ii) earlier in the year several providers' questionnaires were collected under a separate programme (the POIS audit); and (iii) for other providers the relevant contract was not yet applicable. For this reason, this is an experimental statistics report. Its aim is to provide an overall summary and presentation of the key findings based on the data available rather than to provide a detailed interpretive analysis or set of statistical tests. These findings are tentative pending an increase in the volume of data as later months are added. Detailed analysis of the data has been commissioned by the Department of Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

### PROMs publication

The first major publication of PROMs data occurred on 8 April 2010, focusing on patients' pre-operative conditions and summarising the levels of health they reported before undergoing one of four common elective surgical procedures.

The publication is available to download from the [HESonline website](http://www.hesonline.nhs.uk) [www.hesonline.nhs.uk].

Monthly updates are to be provided on participation and linkage rates as well as provider and commissioner scores. A score comparison spreadsheet will also be produced. The next major publication of data is scheduled to occur when post-operative data becomes available.

## Data quality considerations

A full list of data quality considerations including coverage, missing values, ambiguous values and demographics is contained within the PROMs guide, which is available to download from the [HESonline website](http://www.hesonline.nhs.uk) [www.hesonline.nhs.uk].

## Data completeness

Monthly provisional data may be incomplete or contain errors which have not been investigated or adjusted yet. **The number of eligible episodes and questionnaires received may change for previous months due to updated clinical coding and delayed submission of questionnaires.** In general, counts from the monthly provisional data are likely to be lower than those generated for the same period in the final annual dataset. The tables below display what changes have occurred.

Eligible HES episodes										
Period	Apr 2009	May 2009	Jun 2009	Jul 2009	Aug 2009	Sep 2009	Oct 2009	Nov 2009	Dec 2009	Jan 2010
April - November	18,953	18,900	21,198	20,930	17,984	21,039	21,785	20,954	-	-
April - December	19,007	18,940	21,283	20,992	18,047	21,103	21,912	21,357	17,808	-
April - January	18,917	18,853	21,194	20,903	17,969	21,054	21,923	21,341	17,852	18,769

Pre-operative questionnaires										
Period	Apr 2009	May 2009	Jun 2009	Jul 2009	Aug 2009	Sep 2009	Oct 2009	Nov 2009	Dec 2009	Jan 2010
April - November	5,511	9,470	11,411	10,853	9,233	11,523	13,443	11,726	-	-
April - December	5,518	9,477	11,423	10,870	9,368	11,681	13,490	12,410	10,905	-
April - January	5,518	9,474	11,416	10,862	9,364	11,676	13,501	12,484	11,017	11,977

Questionnaires linked to episodes <sup>1</sup>										
Period	Apr 2009	May 2009	Jun 2009	Jul 2009	Aug 2009	Sep 2009	Oct 2009	Nov 2009	Dec 2009	Jan 2010
April - November	1,799	5,737	8,370	8,458	7,388	8,476	9,579	8,763	-	-
April - December	1,801	5,739	8,392	8,482	7,445	8,644	9,657	9,199	8,054	-
April - January	1,801	5,699	8,348	8,433	7,412	8,601	9,623	9,195	8,065	8,602

As part of the continued verification of questionnaires, it is possible for questionnaires to be identified as ineligible. Ineligible questionnaires are those which should not have been administered. This may be because the recipient of the questionnaire has not had/ is not due to have a procedure, or, that they have previously completed a questionnaire. This month the process has identified a number of pre-operative questionnaires as ineligible. These questionnaires have therefore not been included within any counts, and any responses from these questionnaires have not been included within any analysis. As such, a decrease in the number of pre-operative questionnaires has been seen in some months.

<sup>1</sup> These figures are based on questionnaires linked to HES episodes using an algorithm that compares a number of different combinations of patient identifiers. This methodology may be revised or enhanced for future publications.

## POIS audit

The number of linked episodes for months prior to September 2009 is lower than in subsequent months, as approximately 80 providers were involved from April 2009 to September 2009 in the Patient Outcomes in Surgery (POIS) audit for orthopaedic procedures. These are excluded from the figures. From September 2009, the trusts involved in the POIS audit transferred to the national PROMs programme. Further details around the POIS audit are included in the PROMs guide, which is available to download from [HESonline](http://www.hesonline.nhs.uk/Ease/servlet/ContentServer?siteID=1937&categoryID=1295) [http://www.hesonline.nhs.uk/Ease/servlet/ContentServer?siteID=1937&categoryID=1295].

## Known provider issues in HES 2009–10 Month 11 inpatient: coverage issues

PROMs data is linked to HES inpatient data. The HES 2009–10 Month 11 Inpatient Data Quality Note noted that the following organisations have been identified as having shortfalls/missing data or specific data quality issues with their HES inpatient data. Their data should be interpreted with caution.

Organisations with HES inpatient shortfalls/missing data			
Organisation name	Organisation code	Months affected	Approx. total number of records missing
Mersey Care NHS Trust	RW4	Jan	300
Maidstone And Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	RWF	Apr - Dec	80,000
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	5PD	Aug - Dec	750