

## Provisional Monthly Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) in England – April 2009 to May 2010. Post-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 [HESonline](http://www.hesonline.nhs.uk) [http://www.hesonline.nhs.uk].

Version control	
Date	Summary of update
14/10/2010	'Provisional Monthly Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) in England – April 2009 to May 2010. Post-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.

### PROMs publication

Following the first publication of post-operative scores in September 2010, this is the latest monthly update from the Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) programme. This publication builds upon the published pre-operative data and considers the change in patients' self-reported health status for the four common elective surgical procedures in the PROMs programme: groin hernia surgery, hip replacement, knee replacement and varicose vein surgery. Analysis covers the period from April 2009 to the end of May 2010 and includes pre-operative questionnaires that all English providers treating NHS patients have been asked to collect from patients who wish to participate and post-operative questionnaires returned by patients following their surgery. Not all patients undergoing the relevant operations returned questionnaires for a variety of reasons.

### Experimental dataset

The report is classed as experimental statistics as it contains new official statistics that are undergoing evaluation. 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. Detailed analysis of the data has been commissioned by the Department of Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Publishing the post-operative PROMs questionnaire data as experimental statistics enables:

- initial findings to be presented for discussion and further investigation;
- information on data coverage and quality to be made available to encourage local action to improve these areas;
- users to comment on methodology and their needs for analysis. Statistical and casemix adjustments to the PROMs data, developed by contractors<sup>1</sup> on behalf of the Department of Health, are being applied in this publication in advance of a planned cycle of further refinement to the methodology

<sup>1</sup> CHKS Ltd in conjunction with Northgate Information Solutions Ltd.

## 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 [HESonline](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 in Annex 1 display the most recent counts. Over time these will be updated to show the month-on-month change.

As part of the continued verification of questionnaires, it is possible for questionnaires to be identified as ineligible. Ineligible questionnaire are those which should not have been administered. This may be because the recipient of the questionnaire is not due to have/has had a procedure, or, that they have previously completed a questionnaire. 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 may be seen in some months.

## 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) [http://www.hesonline.nhs.uk/Ease/servlet/ContentServer?siteID=1937&categoryID=1295].

## Known provider issues in HES: coverage issues

PROMs data is linked to HES inpatient data. HES inpatient data in the PROMs dataset is cumulative and includes all finalised linked episodes from 2009-10 and provisional linked episodes from 2010-11. The HES 2009-10 Month 13 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 interpreted with caution.

Organisations with HES inpatient shortfalls/missing data			
Organisation name	Organisation code	Months affected	Approx. total number of records missing
Bournemouth and Poole Teaching Hospital	5QN	Jan - Mar	120
Nuffield Health	NT2	Apr - Mar	To be confirmed
Spire Healthcare	NT3	Apr - Mar	29,000
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	RGQ	Sep	7,500

The HES 2010–11 Month 3 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 interpreted with caution.

Organisations with HES inpatient shortfalls/missing data			
Organisation name	Organisation code	Months affected	Approx. total number of records missing
Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	RWX	April	50
Cambridgeshire PCT	5PP	April	250
East Kent Hospitals University NHS Trust	RVV	April	13,000
North East London NHS Foundation Trust	RAT	April	170
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	5PD	April	130
South Birmingham PCT	5M1	April	160
Suffolk PCT	5PT	April	30
Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	RXX	April	130

## Annex A - Data completeness tables

Eligible HES episodes <sup>2</sup>														
Period	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10
April 09 – April 10	18,726	18,642	20,843	20,649	17,731	20,591	21,604	21,066	17,712	18,447	19,906	23,501	18,997	-
April 09 – May 10	18,726	18,642	20,843	20,649	17,731	20,591	21,604	21,066	17,713	18,447	19,907	23,542	19,455	19,414

Pre-operative questionnaires														
Period	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10
April 09 – April 10	5,537	9,512	11,447	10,914	9,390	11,703	13,567	12,594	11,141	12,374	12,910	15,184	12,430	-
April 09 – May 10	5,537	9,512	11,452	10,919	9,396	11,696	13,556	12,585	11,141	12,386	12,933	15,266	12,755	11,707

Questionnaires linked to episodes <sup>3</sup>														
Period	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10
April 09 – April 10	4,314	7,418	8,565	8,164	6,849	8,589	9,876	8,904	8,086	8,739	8,751	9,281	4,547	-
April 09 – May 10	4,314	7,419	8,566	8,167	6,852	8,586	9,922	8,964	8,094	8,960	9,253	10,552	7,972	4,405

<sup>2</sup> These figures are based upon episode start date. The majority of data from April 2009 to March 2010 has been finalised and will not change. HES episodes ending from April 2010 onwards are currently provisional and are subject to change.

<sup>3</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. The counts are based upon the pre-operative questionnaire completion date.

Post-operative questionnaires returned <sup>4,5</sup>														
Period	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10
April 09 – April 10	4,150	7,146	8,600	8,184	6,919	8,465	8,514	6,719	4,339	2,353	1,905	1,265	6	-
April 09 – May 10	4,157	7,150	8,611	8,214	6,968	8,676	9,339	7,315	5,432	4,100	2,221	1,501	7	6

---

<sup>4</sup> The counts are based upon the pre-operative questionnaire completion date.

<sup>5</sup> Due to an operational issue a reduced number of post-operative questionnaires have been sent out. This issue has affected approximately 2,700 post-operative questionnaires due to have been sent out between April and August 2010, meaning that the post-operative questionnaire return rates will be slightly lower than expected. This issue is currently being investigated further and the post-operative questionnaires will be sent out to patients in due course. The return of these post-operative questionnaires will re-inflate the post-operative questionnaire return rate in subsequent months publications.