About this Release

This release describes progress towards improving the completeness of ethnic group recording in acute hospital discharge records (SMR01) and new outpatient appointment records (SMR00). The two graphs below relate to the quarter July – September 2011.

Key Points

- For Scotland as a whole there have been substantial improvements in the recording of ethnic group. Completeness of recording has reached almost two thirds over the last two years for acute hospital discharges and to over two-fifths for new outpatients.
- Despite this improvement, the recording of ethnicity remains relatively low: a valid ethnic group code was recorded in only 64% of acute inpatient and day case records (SMR01) in the quarter ending September 2011 and only 44% of new outpatient appointment records (SMR00).
- In the last two quarters the figures for some Boards (for example NHS Borders and NHS Ayrshire & Arran) may have been affected by the implementation of the new NHS Patient Management System (PMS).

Figure 1: Percentage of discharge episode records (SMR01) with a valid ethnic group by Health Board of Treatment; July- September 2011.
Figure 2: Percentage of new outpatient appointment records (SMR00) with a valid ethnic group by Health Board of Treatment; July-September 2011.

Background

The NHS Scotland Quality Strategy commits the NHS in Scotland to “understanding the needs of different communities, eliminating discrimination, reducing inequality, protecting human rights and building good relations by breaking down barriers that may be preventing people from accessing the care and services that they need”. The UK Government’s Equality Act requires public authorities to collect equality characteristics such as ethnicity to demonstrate that they are meeting the public sector equality duty.

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the Full Publication Report or on the ISD website.

About ISD

Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world combining high quality, consistency, national coverage and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up. Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland - and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government Health Department and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

Official Statistics

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of ‘Official Statistics’. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The Code of Practice is produced and monitored by the UK Statistics Authority which is independent of Government. Under the Code of Practice, the format, content and timing of statistics publications are the responsibility of professional staff working within ISD.

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